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Household Waste Recycling to Increase from 10% to 60%

South Dublin householders currently produce 90,000 tonnes of waste annually with more than 80,000 tonnes going into landfill. As part of a major plan to improve environmental services in the county, South Dublin County Council aims to increase recycling of household waste from 10% to 60%.

Under the plan all 75,000 households in the South Dublin County Council area are to receive three wheeled bins which will enable users to segregate waste for recycling. To fund this enhanced service, the Council has introduced an annual waste charge of G190. The County Manager, Mr. Joe Horan said the move is in line with that already taken by other local authorities in Dublin, and across the country, to adopt the EU 'polluter pays' policy to waste management and increase the level of recycling.

"It is unsustainable to continue putting the current level of waste into landfill. This is a very worthwhile investment to protect the many outstanding outdoor amenities in South Dublin County and sustain a healthy future for the environment," he said. All households have received the first of the three wheeled bins, a grey bin for general household waste. Distribution of the second, a green bin for household cans, cardboard and paper has commenced: 50,000 households will have these bins by the end of 2002 and the remainder will receive them early in 2003. The third is a brown bin for domestic food and garden waste and the first of these will be introduced in 2003.

Further Enhancements to Waste Services

In addition to the initiatives to dramatically increase recycling of household waste there are further enhancements to waste services that South Dublin County Council is currently introducing. These include:

- A major Anti Litter Education and Enforcement Campaign.
- Establishment of 12 new Bring Centres for recyclables e.g. cans, textiles and plastics bringing the total number to 40.
- Introduction of two new street cleaning 'green machines' to service the Palmerstown/Lucan and Rathfarnham/Tempoogue areas, complementing the two existing machines at Tallaght and Clondalkin.
- Provision of an additional 300 home composters for the recycling of garden and kitchen waste, bringing the total number to 1,300.
- Appointment of two extra Litter Wardens, increasing the number of Wardens from four to six.
- Provision of 50 extra litter bins across the County bringing the total to 550.

A Message from Méara Chontae

It is a privilege and memorable experience to serve as Méara Chontae, a new title for the role of 'An Cathaorleach', a title that enables us to carve out our own special identity, setting ourselves apart from the old administrative boundary of Co. Dublin, and more effectively describes the responsibilities of this office, serving the needs of 240,000 people.

South County Dublin has its own unique environment and heritage and we are working to ensure that it is valued and maintained through carefully planned sustainable development and conservation measures.

We are also playing our part in building an inclusive society where all citizens can participate in the life of the county. I am pleased to report that we have signed the Barcelona Declaration, representing another important milestone in securing the rights for the disabled. The voice of the youth has been given its own forum in the establishment of Comhairle na n-Óg this year.

The Council continued to actively market its industrial lands and business facilities and were most successful in attracting inward investment.

Of course, there are many challenges facing our County such as housing needs, combating the litter menace, restoring a county-wide recycling scheme, dealing with anti-social behaviour in our estates, solving the traffic problems, facilitating the arrival of the LUAS, implementing the Travellers Accommodation Programme and continuing to deliver a first class service to our communities.

Toisc go bhfuil sé de cheart ag gach custaiméir a ghnó a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge nó an Bhéarla, tá seirbhísí dátheangacha á dtairiscint ag an gComhairle. D'fhonn cur le stádás na Gaeilge tá forbairt déanta ar Phlean Gníomhaíochta agus á chur i bhfeidhm ag an gComhairle.

In responding to these challenges we can demonstrate that the Council as a local authority can continue to serve the needs of our developing county.

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