

A Strategy for the Provision of Local Community Based Recycling Facilities in South Dublin County – Review of the 2015-2021 Strategy

Introduction

The review of the 2015-2021 strategy is ongoing. This report outlines the process for this review consists of the following:

Stage 1 - This report which sets out the scope of the review of 2015-2021

Stage 2 – Report on the review findings and outline of the scope of work required to draft a new strategy document (November SPC)

Stage 3 – Draft Report of updated Community Based Recycling Strategy for South Dublin County. (February 23' SPC)

Scope of the Review of the Community Based Recycling Strategy 2015-2021

The purpose of this review is to assess the achievements made in promoting community-based recycling in South Dublin County during the implementation of the 2015-2021 strategy and assess the challenges encountered during that period.

It should be noted that during the period of the strategy, the county was faced with the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. With this, came challenging circumstances in terms of changes to people's lifestyles and habits and the effects on the overall waste sector in Ireland. The review will assess the impact of the pandemic on the servicing and use of the bring banks in the county. As well as this, there were a number of important policies and plans introduced during the implementation of the plan and the impacts on these shall be reviewed.

Hence the scope of the review will comprise the following:

1. Review with regard to policies:

At the time of the commencement of the strategy in 2015, the national waste management policy in place since 2012 was titled A Resource Opportunity – Waste Management Policy in Ireland. This was replaced with an overarching policy that was introduced in 2020 titled *Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy - Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025*. This policy has a much broader focus which looks first at how we consume materials and resources, how we design the products that households and businesses use, how we prevent waste

generation and resource consumption and how we extend the productive life of all goods and products in our society and economy.

This 'Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy' is a roadmap for Ireland to embrace the opportunities in becoming a circular economy in the decade ahead.

Other main policy documents introduced during the period 2015-2021 are, *The Waste Management Plan for Eastern-Midlands Region 2015-2021* and the *South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022*.

The Waste Management Plan for Eastern-Midlands Region 2015-2021 provided the framework for waste management during those years and set out a range of policies and actions to meet the specified mandatory and performance targets. Most importantly, the plan sought to assist and support the community and local business to develop resource efficiency and waste prevention initiatives. A key plan target of this plan was to achieve a 1% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the plan and achieve a recycling rate of 50% of managed municipal waste by 2020. An evaluation report on this plan was published in 2021 which evaluated the progress achieved. It also recommended that the existing plan be replaced with a single national plan while retaining the regional focus for the implementation of policies and actions. The evaluation process also identified key learnings from the implementation of the existing plans including the inter dependencies that exist within the waste sector, the importance of realistic targets, flexibility, and constructive collaboration. This single *National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy* is expected to be at draft stage later this month (Sept 22).

With respect to the introduction of the new National Waste Policy, the impending publication of the draft new National Waste Management Plan and the recently adopted *South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 – 2028*, it was considered appropriate for the publication of these documents to have preceded the review of the existing strategy so that the review will summarise the position arising from them and the impact these will have on our recycling strategy.

The review will further examine the possibility of exploring the expansion of the strategy to address other areas like Environmental Awareness and Climate Action to strengthen the intersectional cooperation between Waste Management and Compliance, Environmental Awareness and Climate Action and Enforcement.

2. Review of the delivery of Bring Bank infrastructure in the County:

This will highlight the work done by SDCC in identifying the location of new bring banks in the county. The sites identified, investigated and actions taken will be presented.

This section will highlight the challenges faced by SDCC in finding the new locations of bring banks in the county. It will also outline the difficulties faced by the council in retaining the existing bottle banks in shopping centres and in some communities.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of Bring Banks	70	72	74	69	70	67

3. Review of Objectives:

The 2015-2021 Strategy has objectives with defined action items and target dates by which each action was to be completed. This section will evaluate the objectives and action items to see whether these were achieved or not during the period of implementation.

The objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: Increase the number of locations of recycling facilities in existing developments and built-up areas in the County.

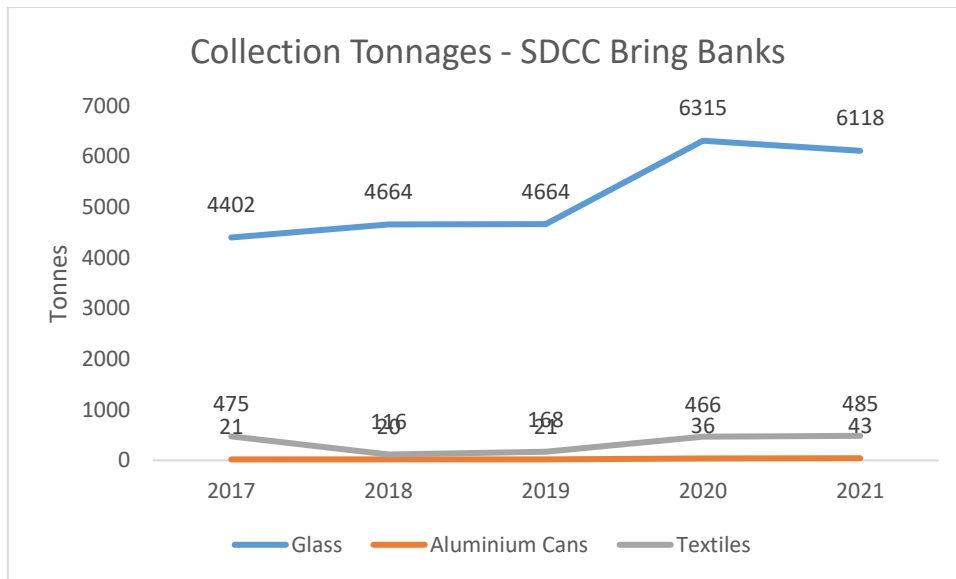
Objective 2: Seek to include the provision of recycling facilities in all new developments.

Objective 3: Retain and improve existing recycling sites.

Objective 4: Increase the usage of recycling facilities

4. Review of Servicing and Maintenance of Bring Banks:

This section will outline the impact of Covid-19 on the servicing and usage of the bottle banks during the lockdown periods. The section will demonstrate how the frequency of servicing and tonnages increased. The section will also highlight the efforts by SDCC to combat illegal dumping, improve the maintenance and the aesthetic aspects of the bottle banks.



5. Conclusions

Based on the changes to national and county policy documents as well as the review of the performance in delivering the targets identified in the previous strategy, a number of items for consideration in developing the revised community-based recycling strategy for South Dublin Conty will be identified.