



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Other Projects and Initiatives

Circular Economy

National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) – Green Procurement

When the NWCPO moved to a new office it looked to reuse everything! It was the first of its kind in Ireland – for demonstrating that up-cycling at a commercial level was achievable. Over 2.6 tonnes of carbon were saved by sourcing second-hand furniture over new, the equivalent of planting 180 evergreen trees.

The project was co-ordinated by Maria Brennan Foynes, Staff Officer (NWCPO) and Claire Downey, Executive at Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI), Free Trade.

Furniture and other items, including some bespoke pieces, were sourced, up-cycled, supplied and fitted by Rediscovery Centre, Back2New and Recycle IT and Freetrade Ireland amongst others – all social enterprises that provide jobs and training for people from marginalised groups or in long-term unemployment.

Further resources:

Refurbished Office: https://crni.ie/content/uploads/2020/11/PTI-Awards_Circular-and-Social-Public-Procurement-Project-NWCPO.pdf

Video by Program Manager: <https://ms-my.facebook.com/offalylibraries/videos/nwcpo-upcycling/587762278857696/>

Press Release: <https://www.offaly.ie/eng/News/Press-Release-%E2%80%93-National-Waste-Collection-Permit-Office-NWCPO-at-Offaly-County-Council-wins-%E2%80%98Best-Green-Procurement-Project-of-the-Year%E2%80%99-category-at-the-National-Procurement-Awards-2020-December-17th-2020.html>

Shaping Offaly's Smart Future

Offaly County Council is innovating and transforming through a range of business, community and educational initiatives. We are working together with schools in Offaly on a VEX Robotics STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and

Maths) programme. This initiative builds on Offaly's strong heritage in science and engineering and it gives students the skills for an exciting and innovative future. These students will drive Offaly's economy for the next 50 years.

Robotics.

Video: 2020 Offaly Championship Finals:

<https://www.facebook.com/1126156604179348/videos/869623153487894>

Contribution by:

- Chief Executive – OCC - Anna Marie Delaney
- TD - Marcella Corcoran Kennedy
- Minister of State - Pippa Hackett
- Cathaoirleach OCC - Peter Ormond
- Industry - Darren Mealiff - Robotics and Drives
- Head of Information Systems / Broadband / Digital – OCC – Ray Bell
- Primary School Teachers & Children in Offaly

Climate Action

Tullamore Living River Project

The Tullamore Living River Project is an ambitious project, aiming to redress the low quality status of the Tullamore River, enhance the water quality and wildlife value of the river and provide an a natural amenity area within the Town. A constructed wetland with raised areas for access will be provided on a derelict site adjacent to the River within the Town, along with localised riverside enhancements in various locations within the Town.

The proposals will lead to some improvements in water quality, and will be used as a springboard to work in tandem with other catchment-wide measures. In parallel with water quality enhancements, the measures outlined here will help to provide wetland habitat for flora and fauna within the Tullamore River as it flows through the town, thus bolstering local aquatic and riparian biodiversity. The project will also help to fulfil Offaly's commitments in the Offaly Climate Adaptation Plan by providing carbon sequestration potential in the proposed wetland areas. The measures of the Tullamore Living River Project are designed to maximise the habitat value for riparian wildlife, and to enhance the area for biodiversity.

From a wider environmental perspective, wetland habitats sequester atmospheric carbon as they grow, and build up peat layers' year after year. The wetlands of Ireland are our rainforest equivalent, our species-rich habitats that also mop up carbon dioxide as well as providing invaluable habitats for wildlife. By creating wetland habitats such as this one, we can help to mitigate our county and national carbon emissions as well as assist with the recovery of wetland wildlife.

Tree of Hope

Caithearleach John Carroll on behalf of elected members of Offaly County Council recently launched a tree planting initiative open to community groups. Trees have been quietly offsetting carbon emissions for centuries, converting carbon dioxide into the oxygen we need for life. The initiative marks hope for communities coming out of the pandemic across 50 towns and villages. Planting will take place during the Autumn.

Rhode Green Energy Park.

OCC and partners are currently advancing Rhode Green Energy Park (RGEP), a leading energy enterprise prototype. Situated on the site of the former Rhode Power Station, it is ideally located to become a seedbed for enterprise and a regional focal point for the emerging energy sector through integrating renewable energy production with energy storage and transmission systems. RGEP is an innovative concept that may provide valuable insights to other former Power Station sites.