

## Sustainable Dublin

Dublin City Council is taking a sustainable approach to achieving its vision of a vibrant, healthy, clean, safe, green and inclusive city. This approach involves developing a compact city, with intensification of mixed-use development built around a well-organised and developed public transport system. It is a vision of a city where, in the future, all residents will be within walking distance of local services and public transport.

An environment that supports the wellbeing of the City's citizens is becoming an important factor in economic success. Sustainability is both a global and local concern. As a growing amount of the world's population live in urban environments, the responsibility is on cities to plan growth in ways that make better use of key resources such as land, buildings and construction materials, water, energy and waste. In short, Dublin needs to consume less and recycle more.

The City Council has been active in promoting a sustainable environment since the adoption of the last Development Plan. In 2007, the City Council developed a process through which the City Council follows the principles of sustainability.

The process uses a four-step approach: creating awareness; conducting analysis; developing a vision of a 'Sustainable Dublin' in 2020 and implementing the vision.

### Climate Change

It is crucial that the City Council, through the Development Plan, responds to climate change by making sure that new developments are designed to lessen and adapt to the effects of climate change. The first priority is to reduce green house gas emissions, primarily carbon dioxide, which contributes to global warming. A major opportunity is to focus on integrating land use and public transport as a key strategy in sustainable energy use; the best location for new residential developments is next to public transport. The City Council has already made a lot of progress in this area:

- ✓ Adopted a Climate Change Policy for Dublin City (May 2008)
- ✓ Commissioned a feasibility study and mapping of District Heating Networks in the city
- ✓ Adopted the Biodiversity Action Plan, 2008-2012
- ✓ Adopted policies for improving energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources
- ✓ Produced a Draft Action Plan on Energy for Dublin (October 2008)
- ✓ Uses Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to remove pollutants and control surface water run-off from new developments

But more needs to be done. For example climate change brings with it the challenge of flood management, due to extremes of weather and increased flood risk and the challenge of supplying drinking water, particularly during periods of drought. We need to come up with solutions to make the most of new technologies and natural resource management techniques.

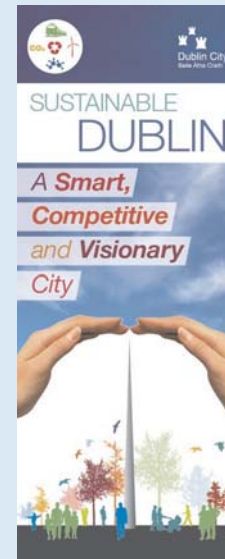


## Sustainable Dublin: The Big Picture Questions

- How can we make better use of key resources of land, buildings, materials, water and energy for the future sustainable development of the city?
- What should be included in a sustainability checklist for all new development and in all plans?
- Is the usage of renewable energy sources feasible in City Centre locations and, if so, how?
- How do we encourage use of the District Heating Network and get commercial development to use Combined Heat and Power systems?
- How do we protect and increase ecological habitats and identify possibilities to create new linked habitats, especially, on open spaces along rivers, canals and the coast and on institutional lands?
- How can the Council encourage the control and conservation of water, for example, the use of green roofs, semi permeable paving and rainwater harvesting, and is there implications for the built environment?
- What development policies would protect the City from the risk of flooding, especially in high-risk areas?
- Given the downturn in the Irish economy, how can the development sector afford the additional costs in providing for sustainable infrastructure – can / should the cost be borne by the consumer i.e. house purchaser?
- Could Dublin take the lead in promoting Environmental Green Industries?
- Should we encourage more sustainable development by linking such development (including Building Energy Rating) to tax incentives?

**What do you think? Have we left out any of The Big Picture issues?**

**We want to hear your views...**



## Climate Change Strategy

