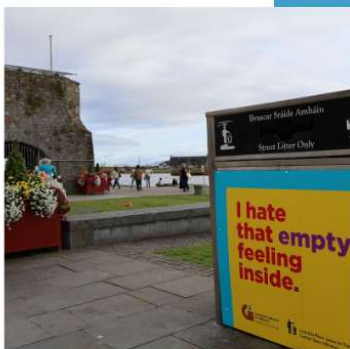


Litter Management Plan 2025-2027



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



Vision Statement:

To protect, enhance, and conserve the natural environment of our city, while promoting environmental awareness through collaboration with organisations and local communities.

Our aim is to improve the quality of life for all residents by fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment.



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1. Introduction:

Galway City is a harbour City on the west coast of the Republic of Ireland. It is sited where the River Corrib meets the Atlantic and it has 12 km of coastal area, and four beaches - two of which have been designated as Blue Flag Beaches. The functional area of Galway City covers 53.4km², with a population of 85,256¹.

The City of Galway is a vibrant, diverse, cultural, university city. It is a city of learning, a city of youth, a city of rich cultural heritage and of stunning natural environment and quality of life. Located just two hours from the Capital of the Republic of Ireland, Dublin, Galway City's population today continues to grow with an influx of new residents. Galway's Irish name, Gaillimh, originates from the Irish word, gaill, meaning “outsiders” or “foreigners” and the term resonates throughout the city's history.

The objective of Galway City Council is to create a city that people aspire to live in, to work in and to visit. Galway City is fortunate to have many beautiful natural areas, and it is vital that these areas are protected, enhanced and conserved. The management of litter is an important element in the maintenance of public and natural spaces. Litter can simply be described as "waste in the wrong place". It consists of any substance, material or item deposited in, or disposed of in, or within sight of a public place in such a manner as to be detrimental to the amenity of the natural or built environment.

The amount of litter that defaces our footpaths, streets, parks and beaches is one of the major environmental issues facing the country. This has been identified by the main agencies concerned with the environment including the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), Local Authorities, Fáilte Ireland, An Taisce and the Environmental Protection Agency.

¹ CSO 2022

This Litter Management Plan 2025-2027 recognises that the problem of litter will not be eradicated unless a multi-dimensional approach is taken. Indeed, every sector is involved in tackling the litter problem - the public as well as businesses and the Local Authority. A fundamental change of attitude is required on the part of the public to recognise that litter is anti-social. At one level such a change can be achieved by the heightening of awareness of litter, its causes and its consequences; at another level stringent enforcement through on-the-spot fines and prosecutions may often be required.

This Plan outlines objectives and targets for the period to 2027 which will be reviewed annually. The emphasis of this Plan will be on adopting a best practice approach by seeking to:

- minimise litter in the first instance,
- create awareness about litter generation, and the negative impact of littering,
- change behaviour to reduce litter, by working in partnership with the relevant business groups, resident associations, Tidy Towns groups, sporting bodies, community groups, schools and residents of the city, to improve litter management and enforcement of litter legislation.

In preparing this Plan, due regard has been given to:

- Galway City Council's participation in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring Survey (NLPMS), refer to Appendix 1.
- Internal consultation with the Council's Environment Section Staff and Litter Management Unit
- The Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) reports for previous years,
- An Assessment of previous Local Authority Litter Management Plans,
- National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030
- Connacht-Ulster WERLA (Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority) requirements and national waste management priorities.
- Good practice in behavioural change approaches for positive environmental behaviours.
- Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended.
- Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

The aims and objectives of this Plan can only be successfully achieved through cooperation and partnership. This cooperation and partnership will require all sections within Galway City Council in particular (Environment and Climate Change, Housing, Transport and Infrastructure, Recreation and Amenity, Community and Corporate Services and Planning) to continue to effectively undertake its statutory duty and also requires businesses, citizens and visitors alike to actively play their part in the prevention and management of litter and the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste.

The Process for the Litter Management Plan 2025-2027 is as follows:

Draft Plan

- Consultation with relevant LA Sections and Staff
- Evaluation of current litter problems and of previous plan
- Any relevant changes in Recent and Upcoming Legislation



Publish Draft, Consult with and invite Submissions from:

- Elected Members
- Members of Public
- Interested bodies



Review and Publish New Plan

- Considering and making amendments to draft following any relevant submissions made
- Elected Members Adopt Plan
- Full Litter Management Plan is published

2. Glossary of Terms

This Litter Management Plan is produced in compliance with the provisions of Section 10 and 11 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. The following terms contained in this document are defined hereunder for ease of reference.

"Litter" is a substance or object, whether or not intended as waste (other than waste within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996, which is properly 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 substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit.

"Litter Warden" is a person authorised by a Local Authority to perform, on behalf of the Local Authority, the functions of the Local Authority and of a Litter Warden under this Act (Litter Pollution Act, 1997).

"Authorised Officer" is a person authorised in writing by a Local Authority for the purposes of the enforcement of the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.

"On the Spot Fine" Section 28 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 provides as follows:- "If a Litter Warden or a member of the Garda Síochána has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is committing or has committed a prescribed offence under this Act, or a dog warden, within the meaning of the Control of Dogs Act, 1986, or a member of the Garda Síochána has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is committing or has committed an offence under Section 22, the warden or member may give the person a notice in prescribed form". This statutory notice is known as an "on the spot fine"

"Deposit" in relation to a substance or object that can constitute litter in respect of any place, means to throw, drop, dump, abandon or discard the substance or object, as the case may be, or allow it to escape or be released in or into the place.

"Recycling" means in relation to waste, the subjection of waste to any process or treatment to make it re-usable in whole or in part.

3. Legislation and Responsibilities

Under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, and the Waste Management Act, 1996, responsibility for litter prevention lies with all persons. However, Local Authorities, businesses and members of the public have different statutory responsibilities under the Acts. Relevant Extracts from these Acts are provided below.

Litter Pollution Act, 1997

Section 3(1) - "No person shall deposit any substance or object so as to create litter in a public place or in any place that is visible to any extent from a public place."

Section 4(1) - "A person who is the registered owner or is in charge of a vehicle being used to transport goods or materials shall take measures to prevent the creation of litter from the vehicle on a public road or in a public place."

Section 6(1) - "The occupier of a public place (not being a public road or a building or other structure) shall keep the place free of litter."

Section 6(2) - "The occupier of any land (other than land consisting of a building or other structure) that is not a public place shall keep the land free of litter that is to any extent visible from a public place."

Section 6(4) - "Every occupier of land adjoining a public road in respect of which a built-up area speed limit or special speed limit has been established in the functional area of a local authority shall keep free from litter-

- a) Any footway adjoining the land and forming, or forming part of, a public road, and
- b) Any area of land forming part of a public road between any such footway and the roadway.

Section 8(1) - "A local authority shall take all practicable measures for the prevention of the creation, and for the prevention and overcoming of the pollution effects, of litter in its functional area and for the control and disposal of litter and, for those purposes, may enter

into arrangements with, or assist, other persons (including other local authorities) for or in the taking of such measures on behalf of the authority.”

Section 10(1) - The local authority shall make and implement a litter management plan and review it at least every 3 years.

Section 15(1) - “The owner, occupier or person in charge of a mobile outlet that is used wholly or partly for the sale of produce, food or drink shall, at all times when the outlet is open to customers-

- a) Provide and maintain adequate litter receptacles in order to prevent the creation of litter at or in the vicinity of the outlet while it is in operation,
- b) Ensure that any litter caused by the operation of the outlet is removed from the vicinity within a reasonable distance not exceeding 100 metres from the location of the outlet,

Section 22(1) - “Where faeces has been deposited by a dog in any place to which this subsection applies, the person in charge of the dog shall immediately remove the faeces and shall ensure that it is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner.”

Waste Management Act, 1996

Section 32(2) - This section stipulates that only the Local authority or a waste collector holding a valid waste collection permit can take the waste from a household or a commercial activity. It is the responsibility of every person transferring control of its waste to ensure that the person to whom the waste is transferred has a valid waste collection permit.

Businesses and members of the public should be aware that they can be prosecuted for an offence under the Waste Management Act, if their waste is collected by a waste collector not holding a valid waste collection permit.

4. Litter Generators

To tackle litter pollution in the Galway City local authority area, the Council uses a number of methods to evaluate the existing litter problems in the City, and to establish what type of activities generate litter. Reference is made to:

- Surveys in the City area, Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL), National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys and local knowledge.
- Complaints registered and Council agenda items.
- Submissions/complaints from representative groups.

The main generators of litter pollution occurring **nationally** were identified as (National Litter Pollution Report 2023):

- Passing pedestrians (42.3%),
- passing motorists (20.2%),
- retail outlets (8%),
- gathering points (6.3%),
- places of leisure/entertainment (4.1%),
- fast food outlets (4.6%),
- schools/school children (4.3%),
- bus stops (3.2%),
- fly-tipping/dumping (2.4%),
- bring banks (1.8%),
- refuse collection/presentation (0.9%) and
- bank ATMs (0.6%)

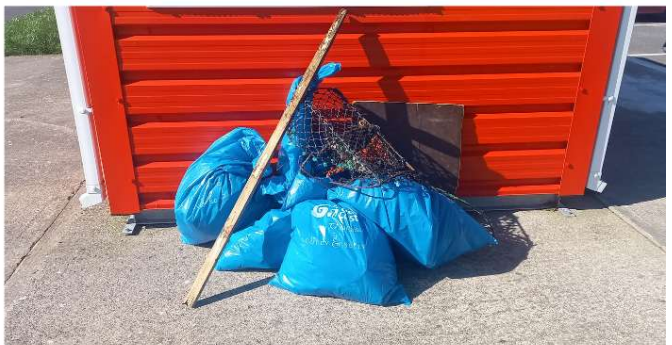
Similar patterns and challenges exist in Galway City, and the objectives of this Litter Management Plan will put measures in place to tackle these problem areas.

5. How to Make a Complaint

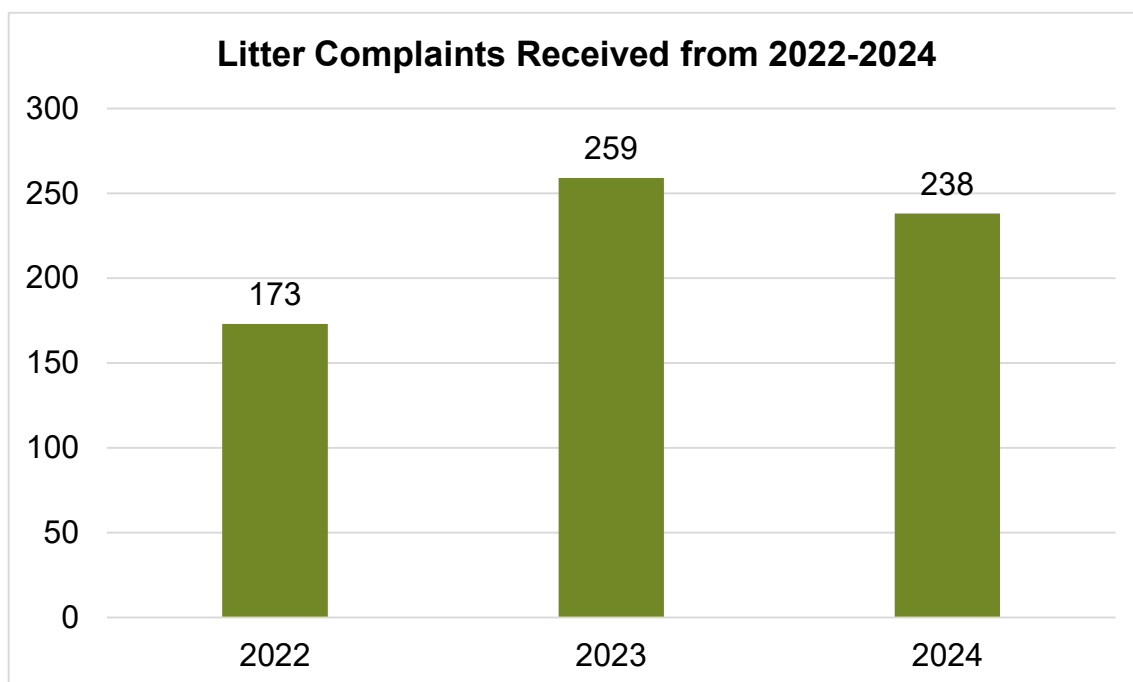
Members of the public are invited to contact Galway City Council should they observe any illegal or suspicious litter or waste activities. This collaborative approach greatly assists the local authority to minimize littering and illegal waste activities.

Complaints can be reported in a number of ways:

- contacting Galway City Council's landline number 091 536 400
- reporting to the EPA's National Environmental Complaints Line (NECL) 1800 365 123
 - Calls made to the EPA are then forwarded to Galway City Council to investigate
- via post to Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, H91X4K8
- by email - Environment@GalwayCity.ie or CustomerService@GalwayCity.ie
- by presenting in person to speak with a staff member from the Environment Section in City Hall
- Complaint submission forms can be downloaded from the Council's website and completed.

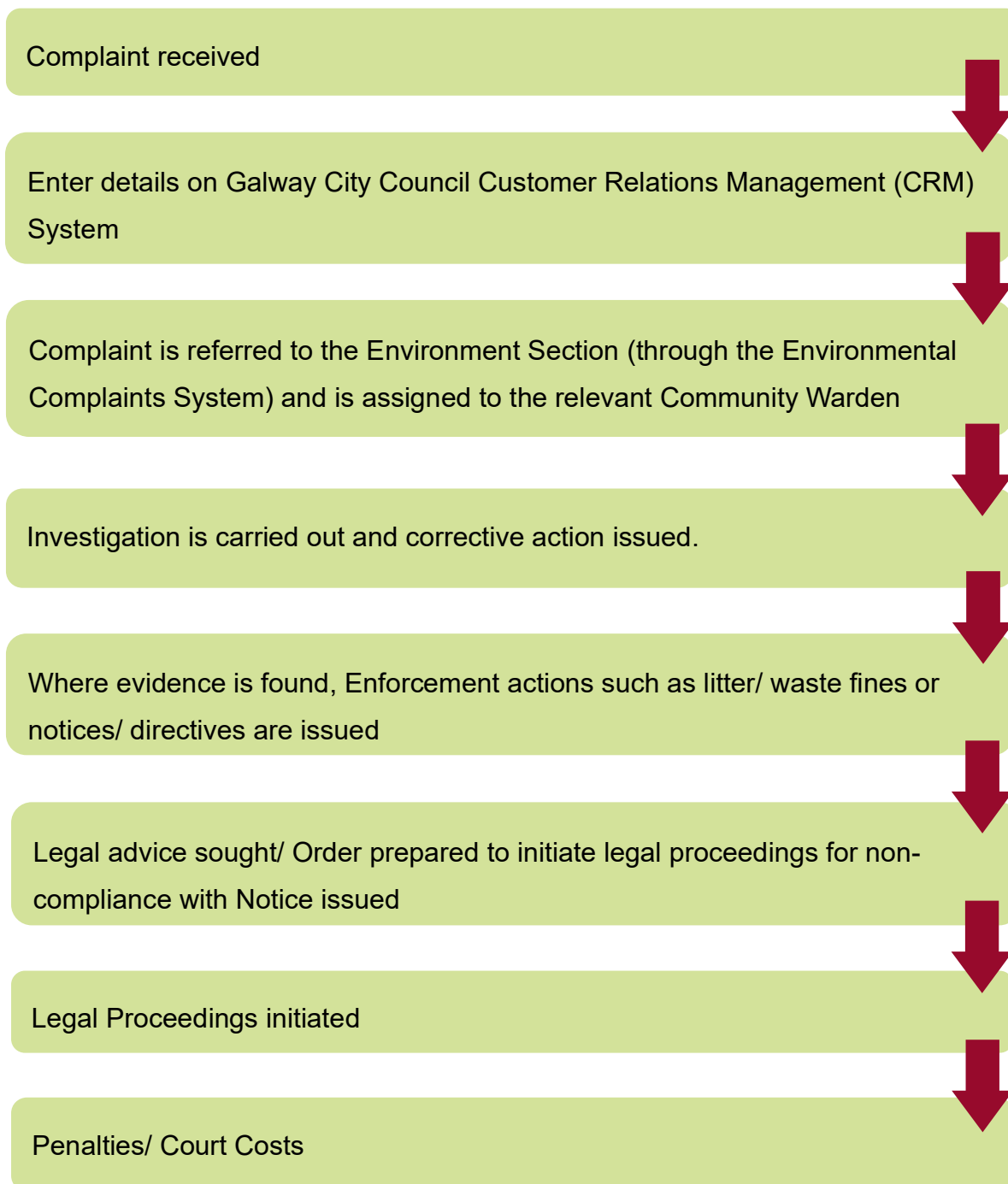


5.1 Litter Complaints Received from 2022-2024



5.2 Litter Complaint Handling

All complaints received are logged in the Galway City Council's Customer Relations Management (CRM) system, which provides accurate recording and logging of interactions with the public and investigations / follow up actions following receipt of complaints.



6. Aims of the Litter Management Plan (2025 to 2027)

The primary aims of the Galway City Council Litter Management Plan (2025-2027) are:

1. Prevention and Control of Litter - minimise the generation of litter in the first instance.
2. Enforcement - improve litter management and enforcement of litter legislation.
3. Education, Public Awareness and Participation - create awareness about litter generation, and the negative impact of littering; change behaviour to reduce litter, by working in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

In all instances, Galway City Council will adopt a 'good practice', evidence-based approach.

7. Objectives of the Litter Management Plan (2025 to 2027)

Galway City Council recognises the importance of a strategic approach to deal with the challenge of litter and the implementation of this Plan. The Environment Section is committed to working as a team on the litter management strategy.

The Plan is focused on delivering a quality service that will achieve a significant improvement in terms of litter management and control in our city, towns and villages.

The primary objectives of the City Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

7.1 Prevention and Control of Litter - minimise the generation of litter in the first instance

- The **identification of priorities and the deployment of resources** to meet these needs in the most cost-efficient fashion.
- The **identification and delivery of the priority actions** as set out in National Waste Management Plan 2024-2030.

7.2 Enforcement - improve litter management and enforcement of litter legislation.

- The **integration of the litter prevention and control function** with other priority areas and functions of the Council to ensure that an integrated response to litter management and control is developed.
- The delivery of a **comprehensive monitoring and enforcement programme** to ensure that people who fail to manage the proper disposal of litter and waste face the appropriate sanctions.
- The **review of legislation**, including the Council's Byelaws, to ensure that they remain fit for purpose in the current challenging environment.

7.3 Education, Public Awareness and Participation - Create awareness and Change behaviour

- The delivery of a **comprehensive education and awareness programme** to schools, community groups etc., to raise awareness of relevant legislation, challenges, opportunities etc., in relation to management of litter.
- The delivery of a **comprehensive support service to communities** to facilitate groups who wish to participate in the improvement of their areas.

8. Prevention and Control of Litter

One of the main objectives of Galway City Council is to minimise litter generation in the first instance, by raising the profile of Litter Prevention and Control initiatives. Galway City Council recognises the existence and extent of litter in the city, and that litter does not simply occur; it is caused by the actions of the public and certain businesses.

The Council also recognises that regardless of public awareness initiatives in relation to litter prevention, there will always be a requirement to implement litter prevention and control measures. The prevention and control of litter is a priority in Galway City Council, and the Council will continue to assist the community in their efforts to prevent and control litter.



Action	Description	Expected Completion Date
1. Street Sweeping 	Implement best practice in street sweeping operations. Maintain the existing 7 day per week street-sweeping and cleaning service in the city centre and surrounding areas of the city on a rota basis to combat litter pollution. Replace and upgrade street sweeping plant and utilise new technologies where possible to improve service provision.	Ongoing
2. Litter Bins	Map and review the location of all litter bins within the City boundary. Monitor the usage of litter bins and instances of unauthorised deposits of domestic waste in public litter bins. Carry out regular cleaning and maintenance of litter bins and provide replacements where required.	During life of the plan
	Maintain and improve Solar Compacting SMART Bins in the City Centre, Spanish Arch and Salthill Areas over the lifetime of this plan.	Ongoing
	Consideration will be given to the provision of additional SMART litterbins following evaluation; however, the Councils long-term aim is to reduce the number of litterbins and promote anti-litter initiatives and programmes.	Ongoing

3. Dog Fouling	Galway City Council will maintain dog poop bag dispensers at locations around the city where there is high pedestrian traffic and instances of dog fouling to encourage dog owners to pick up and bin the pooh.	Ongoing
4. Advertising Signage	Galway City Council will implement guidelines to control the erection of advertising signs whereby Event Organisers must make a written application to the Council at least two weeks in advance of a major event. Signs must not be erected seven days prior to the event and must be removed within two days of the end of the event. Where groups operate within the guidelines, no action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act. The Council will also monitor hoardings to ensure they are maintained in accordance with the conditions of the hoarding licence. Election candidates are informed of Council guidelines, and legislation with regard to size, location, erection and removal after the polling date of election posters.	Ongoing
5. Illegal Dumping	Galway City Council will combat the problem of fly tipping and illegal dumping of litter. Reporting of illegal dumping is encouraged, and the public can report litter offences to City Council Staff and Community Wardens. All reports are followed up by the Council and investigated as appropriate and fines issued where possible.	Ongoing

	The Council will participate in national anti-dumping initiative campaigns targeting areas of the City that score poorly in IBAL and other litter analysis reports.	
6. Target Known Litter Black Spots 	Galway City Council will continue to identify and tackle litter black spots. The Council will liaise with other Local Authorities and the Connacht-Ulster WERLA to identify best practices and utilise new technologies (private investigators, covert CCTV, drone surveys, and so on) to combat litter, illegal dumping and waste crime. Continue to apply for national funding to support this work.	Ongoing
7. Eliminate Litter/Waste Streams at Source	Liaise with relevant stakeholders to ensure that Litter Control and Waste Management measures are in place at major events and in the surrounding vicinity before, during and after the event. Liaise with relevant stakeholders to ensure that all mobile food outlets or operators 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. Liaise with Transport and Infrastructure, Planning, Parks and other relevant Council Departments and external organisations in relation to the design of streetscapes to ensure that the longer-term litter	Ongoing

	management of an area is considered at the design stage.	
8. Litter Pollution and Litter Quantification Surveys	The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System was set up by the DOEHLG in 1999 to monitor the levels of the litter pollution on a nationwide basis. The Council will continue to complete approximately 120 Litter Pollution Surveys and 40 Litter Quantification Surveys throughout the City per annum.	Ongoing
9. Regular Inspections and Patrols	Complete inspections of residential areas and commercial properties as outlined in the annual RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) Community Wardens will undertake regular patrols in areas where litter problems exist in laneways, parks and green spaces, waterways, bring banks etc. The increased presence on the ground and risk of prosecution should deter persons from littering.	Ongoing

9. Enforcement – Improve Litter Management and Enforcement of Litter Legislation

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997, introduced stringent litter laws to combat the problems of litter pollution, gave new powers to local authorities to tackle the problem of litter and since its introduction significant improvements have occurred through enforcement action.

The Waste Enforcement Officer and Community Wardens follow up all litter and waste complaints, carry out detailed investigations and issue fines for various offences and legal proceedings. Enforcement is a key factor in eradicating the problem of litter in Galway City Council and the Council requires the involvement and cooperation of businesses, residents and local community groups. Continual review of legislation, including the Council's Bye-Laws, to ensure that they remain fit for purpose is critical to securing enforcement actions in the current challenging environment.

Action	Description	Expected Completion Date
10. Waste Enforcement Officer Resources	One Waste Enforcement Officer operates in Galway City Council, tasked with monitoring illegal waste activities, waste permits and waste collection permit inspections, inspection of commercial premises for compliance with various waste management regulations and enforcement of litter legislation.	Ongoing
11. Bye-Laws	Galway City Council has adopted Bye Laws for the "Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2019". The new Bye Laws will facilitate the enforcement of litter fines and prosecutions and further reduce litter arising from poor and	2019

	irresponsible waste management associated with refuse collection services.	
12. Fines and Prosecutions	There is an undisputed need to change public attitudes towards littering. Litter is deemed as anti-social and unacceptable behaviour. Leaving or throwing of litter in a public place is an offence and offenders may be subject to an on-the-spot fine of €150 or a maximum fine of €3000 in Court. Community Wardens will continue to enforce litter legislation by the issuing of on the-spot fines and increasing the number of prosecutions 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. Galway City Council will endeavour to utilize fines and prosecutions to their full extent and to provide an enhanced street cleaning service to prevent areas being spoilt by litter. In the City Centre area, the majority of litter fines are issued for offences under Section 3 (1) of the Act— Litter in Public Places. The remaining litter fines are issued for the following litter offences: • Section 6 - Failure to keep area litter-free • Section 19 - Illegal signs erected on poles/structures • Section 21 - Distribution of advertising material to the public • Section 22 (1) – Dog related offences	Ongoing

13. Enforcement by an Garda Síochána	Galway City Council will continue to work closely with An Garda Síochána to pursue enforcement measures in relation to litter and abandoned cars. The Council will encourage An Garda Síochána to issue more fines and prosecute offenders under appropriate legislation.	Ongoing
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10. Education, Public Awareness, and Participation

Education, public awareness and participation play an important role in changing attitudes and behaviours in relation to litter management. Research shows that awareness raising campaigns alone do not change behaviour - emphasising the importance of a partnership approach with relevant stakeholders in tackling negative littering behaviours, supported by litter control and management, and enforcement of legislation.

The Council recognise the need to heighten public awareness of environmental matters generally, and the need to work with residents, businesses and community groups to encourage participation in anti-litter, and waste-reduction initiatives.

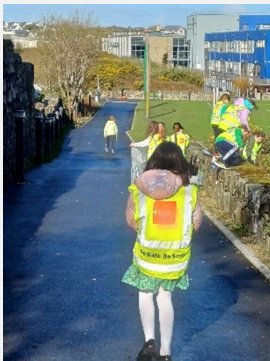
Galway City Council regularly consults with other local authorities on their litter management initiatives and attends National Litter Seminar workshops to gather 'good practice' and information litter management.

The Council employs an Environmental Awareness Officer and 13 Community Wardens who support awareness-raising initiatives, and participation among businesses, community groups and schools in the city.



Action	Description	Expected Completion Date
14. Green-Schools Programme 	All schools in Galway City participate in the national Green-Schools programme, operated by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland, on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education. Galway City Council will continue to support and promote the Green-Schools programme, and to work with schools to support their progression through programme themes.	Ongoing
	The Community Wardens, the Environmental Awareness Officer and other Council staff will visit primary schools throughout the year to raise awareness on the harmful effects of littering, including talks on waste management and recycling, and encouraging schools to undertake waste audits to examine the full lifecycle environmental impact of all the resources they use, and the materials created.	Ongoing
	Emails are issued to all schools in the City, with updates and advice on environmental issues, as well as news on upcoming events that may be of interest - for example, schools' competitions, National Spring Clean Competition, beach clean/educational events.	Ongoing
	New resources, for example, posters, information booklets, on relevant topics will be shared with schools.	Ongoing

15. Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign 	Galway City Council will continue to participate in the National Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign, who undertake anti-gum roadshows on an annual basis. 	Ongoing
16. CCTV cameras will be provided where feasible for detection and enforcement 	As part of these measures, Galway City Council are examining the use of CCTV in litter black spots. This system allows the Council to step up its efforts in detection and enforcement. (with reference to the IBAL survey results). Galway City Council has begun the process of being legally able to use CCTV since The Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 has now remedied a previous legislation gap which prohibited the lawful basis to process personal data.	Ongoing
17. Community Service Order Initiative	Galway City Council and the Probations Services carry out regular clean ups in several areas throughout Galway City. To date, this includes litter clean-ups in wooded areas, beaches, city waterways and canal banks. Graffiti removal and other community-based	Ongoing

	tasks have also been carried out under this initiative.	
18. Garda Liaisons	Liaise with Garda and seek assistance where required to tackle litter problems and waste crime. Galway City Council works closely with community gardaí to help solve local issues.	Ongoing
19. Anti-Litter/Anti-Graffiti Grant Scheme 	Galway City Council's Environment Awareness Officer utilizes the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti fund which focuses on community engagement and education, particularly tackling litter blackspots in communities and carrying out innovative projects. This includes murals and creating a new aesthetic for areas in collaboration with local groups and students. This grant supports anti-dog fouling campaigns through funding for dog poop bags, awareness raising initiatives such as animated video shorts, responsible dog workshops with schools and volunteer dog stewards. It also funds supplies for community clean-ups throughout the city.	2023-2026
20. Schools Competitions 	Each year Galway City Council organises competitions to encourage schools to become aware of and responsible for their local environment and to contribute in a positive way to the appearance of their locality by keeping their school grounds and surrounding area well-presented and litter free. Awards will be presented to the schools to acknowledge the hard work in raising awareness and pride	Ongoing

	in the local environment. The following initiatives are included: • Spaces for Biodiversity competition– Schools categories • Environment Calendar for Primary Schools, focusing on anti-litter theme	
21. Spaces for Biodiversity Competition 	The Council organises the annual Spaces for Biodiversity Competition locally and support Tidy Town Committees in taking part in the National Tidy Towns Competitions. These efforts have been recognised by the increase in the marks awarded each year.	Ongoing
22. Community Clean Ups	Continue to roll out campaigns which assist and encourage the community to get involved in keeping their local area litter free. The Council assists by providing gloves, refuse bags, litter pickers and removes the bags of litter collected after the clean-up has taken place.	Ongoing
23. Circular City Galway 	In line with the Objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030, Circular City Galway' supports initiatives which encourage the reduction of waste through repair and reuse initiatives. These include sewing workshops, second-hand markets and workshops in circularity in a business environment.	Ongoing

24. Irish Business Against Litter 	Galway City Council participates in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) league in order to publicise the message against litter pollution. Galway City Council will endeavour to address litter problems highlighted in the IBAL reports each year and work in partnership with all stakeholders to improve on the scores and ranking awarded towards achieving a Litter Free City.	Ongoing
25. Re-turn Scheme Bin Surround Pilot 	Galway City Council is piloting Bin surrounds on 20 bins in the City Centre to encourage plastic bottle separation in general street litter bins. The project is in collaboration with Re-Turn Ireland and aims to reduce plastic waste in street bins by having a drop off and collect bottle holder on the side of the bins.	August 2025 – December 2025
26. Plastic Free Week	Galwegians are invited to tackle the challenge of living 'plastic free' as part of Plastic Free Week in Galway City.	Spring – Annually
27. Re-Love Fashion	Galway City Council contributes funding to the Relove Fashion competition which is supported by the Rediscovery Centre, The Government of Ireland and the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices. This is an All-Ireland competition which is open to young people between 12-19. The competition was developed and is funded through a partnership between the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, the Government of Ireland, and the Rediscovery	Annually

	Centre, Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy. This trailblazing competition was developed in response to the devastating environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry, the need for change, and the recognition of young people's pivotal role in shaping innovative solutions.	
28. Bulky Goods Collection	Galway City Council will continue to offer a 'bulky goods' collection service for items such as mattresses, couches, tables or other items that are too big for household bins. The cost of the service is based on what is being collected.	Ongoing
29. Bring Banks	Investigate locations for new sites in the City Centre Area	2019
30. Salthill litter Study	Galway City Council, in partnership with CuriOcean CLG, is inviting the public to propose solutions to reduce waste and litter in the Salthill area on busy summer days. CuriOcean CLG is a Galway-based charity working to raise awareness of marine conservation issues, see CuriOcean. This innovative project will engage the local community and visitors to propose evidence-based solutions, with volunteers on the ground in Salthill over the months of July August and early September, collecting feedback and monitoring litter levels. The project aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 6:	Ongoing

	Clean water and Sanitation and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The local community and visitors to the area are invited to fill in a survey (online, or with volunteers in Salthill) which will focus on behaviour change, waste perception and environmental impact. The subsequent data will be analysed, along with drone footage of waste and litter on the beaches in Salthill to get a comprehensive overview of litter patterns during peak busy periods. Follow-up workshops will also take place, to ensure local communities and sustainability are at the core of any proposed solutions during peak periods.	
31. Civic Amenity Site	Galway City Council operates a Civic Amenity Site for households to dispose of items such as glass, oil, lightbulbs, batteries, waste electrical items, some household items and crockery at the Liosbán Civic Amenity Site. See Section 10.1 Mattress ‘amnesty’ collections will be facilitated subject to funding. Review opening times to provide a service from 08:30 to 17:00 weekdays. (add possible new)	Ongoing

32. Hazardous Waste Collection	Galway City Council will facilitate households to dispose of hazardous waste items such as waste electrical items, batteries and oil at the Liosbán Civic Amenity Site. See Section 10.1	Ongoing
	One paint collection will be facilitated yearly subject to funding.	Yearly
33. Litter/Dumping Hot Spots	Approximately 50 locations have been identified as litter/dumping “hot spots” throughout the City. In 2019 Signage detailing fines will be erected at these locations. The locations will be reviewed, and additional signage will be rolled out within the term of the Plan.	Ongoing

11. Provision of Services

Galway City Council adopted a joint Waste Management Plan for the Connacht Ulster Region. The Waste Management Plan focuses on waste prevention and minimisation measures.

Galway City Council facilitates waste recycling and recovery through the provision of the Civic Amenity Site at Liosbán, Bring Centres throughout the city, Non-hazardous Household Waste Collections and a weekly Bulky Goods collection service.

Over the past few years, the Council has significantly expanded its existing facilities and will continue to introduce new initiatives where possible.

11.1 Recycling Centre (Civic Amenities Site)

The City Councils Recycling Centre (Civic Amenity Site) at Liosbán Industrial Estate, Tuam Road was opened to the Public in 2007. The facilities available at Liosbán Industrial Estate Recycling Centre include the following:

- A Civic Amenity Facility for certain Categories of Household Waste that cannot be accommodated in household wheelie bins.
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Bring banks
- Further details on www.GalwayCity.ie or see list below.

The Liosbán Industrial Estate Recycling Centre accepts only non-hazardous waste in accordance with its EPA Licence. During this plan the introduction of charges will be examined and may be implemented in compliance with the Connaught/Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and the “Polluter Pays Principle”.

Items accepted include:

- Glass - Window Panes, Mirrors, frames/backing removed, Pyrex, drinking glasses, glass vases (open top skip at facility)
- Oils - Cooking Oil and Waste Engine Oil ONLY and in small quantities (maximum of 5 litres accepted)
- Oil Filters - Small quantities – maximum 2 litres accepted.
- Batteries - All household batteries and car batteries.
- Light Bulbs - Fluorescent Tubes and CFL bulbs ONLY (no ordinary light bulbs - place in landfill bin)
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
- Domestic/ Household ONLY, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment anything requiring a plug or battery to operate for example, Fridges/freezers, televisions, cookers, vacuum cleaners, electric kettles, toasters, computers, microwaves, lamps, and so on. Battery operated items, for example: cameras, games, toys, torches, remote controls, calculators, and so on.
- Mobile phones - dispose in charity mobile phone recycling container.
- Large Hard Plastics - Large plastic toys, plastic basins/buckets/containers, plastic garden furniture, car baby seats, plastic laundry baskets, PVC windows and doors (ensure all metal and glass is removed).
- Waste Metals - Bicycles, metal pots/pans/buckets, metal ironing boards, metal household racks, metal stools/chairs (seats removed), gas heaters (cylinder removed), non-electrical lawnmowers, fireguards/grates, metal stepladders, buggies.
- Timber - Wooden chairs/stools (seats removed), timber doors and window frames (all metal and glass removed), timber ladders, large wooden furniture items, for example wardrobes, will be accepted only if disassembled and all metal and glass removed, timber floors (typical household quantity only from DIY works), wicker baskets/chairs, wooden stakes/fencing.
- Ceramics - Crockery, delph, flowerpots, small quantity of tiles (consistent with small household DIY works), sanitary ware, ornaments.

11.2 Bring Centres

The Council currently provides 12 bottle banks and is actively seeking new sites to expand this network. Bring Centres are managed by the Council and serviced by various contractors. The DCCAE and Repak provide funding for these sites. Householders are encouraged to bring their recyclables to these bring centres free of charge.

The increased activity at bottle banks has brought with it an increase in the incidence of dumping and littering. Community Wardens monitor bring centre sites to ensure a rapid response to illegal dumping. Galway City Council will carry out the following:

- Inform the public of the location of bring centres and make them aware of the types of materials that can be deposited;
- Ensure that the Service Contractor takes due care when emptying the bring centres; and
- Link with Communities to ensure that bring centres are emptied on time.

	Bottle Bank Locations in Galway City
1	Ballybane - Ballybane Shopping Centre
2	Doughiska - Centra
3	Galway City - City Hall
4	Galway City - Civic Amenity Site
5	Galway City - Dyke Road
6	Galway City - Galway Shopping Centre
7	Galway City - Terryland
8	Galway City - Western Distributor Rd.
9	Galway City - Westside Shopping Centre/ Siobhan McKenna Road
10	Knocknacarra - Joyce's Supermarket
11	Renmore Kingfisher Club
12	Salthill - Toft Park

11.3 Street Cleaning

The Council employs staff and uses the best available plant and machinery for street cleansing operations. For the purpose of street cleansing the City is divided into four areas. The cleansing programme for each area includes the following:

- Street sweeping and washing.
- Emptying and upkeep of litterbins.
- Liaison with members of the public in relation to Litter awareness.

Machinery used for street cleansing includes the following:

- 3 Large Sweepers;
- 2 Compact Sweepers;
- 6 Pick Ups.

11.4 Provisions of Bins

The Council provides and services approximately 200 litter bins throughout the city. Businesses are encouraged to provide and service litter bins within the curtilage of their premises. Litter bins are emptied frequently, positioned and sized appropriately for the location being serviced to reduce the potential for litter bins to become litter generators. [add piece re: evidence based decision to reduce number of bins to acknowledge the feedback we got from submissions]

11.5 Complaints and Reports from the Public

All complaints and reports from the public with regard to litter are logged on a database and directed to the appropriate section and staff members for action. The Council will endeavour to investigate all litter complaints and report within one week and implement appropriate actions.

11.6 Protected Areas

In the Galway City Council functional area there are a number of designated sensitive and protected habitats and wildlife. Litter has significant impacts on these habitats and wildlife, with the impact of plastics on marine life being a real threat to our ecosystem. The City Council carries out regular litter pick on our beaches and parks, participates in the Blue Flag and Green Coasts schemes, assists and promotes regular Beach Clean-ups organised by community groups.

12. Costing and Resources

Funding for implementation of Action in the Litter Management Plan is dependent on the following:

- Provision in the Council Annual Budget;
- Anti-Litter Grants and Enforcement/Awareness Grants from Government Departments.

In 2024 the total budget requirement for all services provided by the Litter Management Unit in Galway City, street cleaning, bin servicing, litter picking, recycling facilities, anti-litter initiatives and awareness programmes was €4.8 million.

13. Review of Litter Management Plan

This Litter Management Plan has been prepared for implementation between 2025 and 2027. Its implementation and effectiveness will require regular monitoring and review if its objectives are to be achieved.

When this Litter Management Plan concludes in 2027 all of the objectives outlined will be reviewed to determine the success and effectiveness on the objectives and measures put in place to reduce litter in Galway City.

14. Working in Partnership

Litter is generated by all sectors of society; its elimination will only be achieved by encouraging the public, businesses and community groups to take responsibility for their own actions.

The objectives set out in this Litter Management Plan are the cornerstones for litter pollution control in Galway City Council.

Many of the objectives and ensuing actions proposed require the support of businesses and community/residential groups and individuals in combating litter through joint initiatives.

The City Council recognises that it is through the development of Partnerships with representatives from various business, community/residential groups and organisations, combined with the support/participation of the Elected Members, Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Local Authority Staff across all sections that Galway City Council will strive to deliver a litter free environment for all to enjoy.

15. Summary

Three-pronged approach based on aims of:

1. **Prevention and Control of Litter** - minimise the generation of litter in the first instance.
2. **Enforcement** - improve litter management and enforcement of litter legislation.
3. **Education, Public Awareness and Participation** - create awareness about litter generation, and the negative impact of littering; change behaviour to reduce litter, by working in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

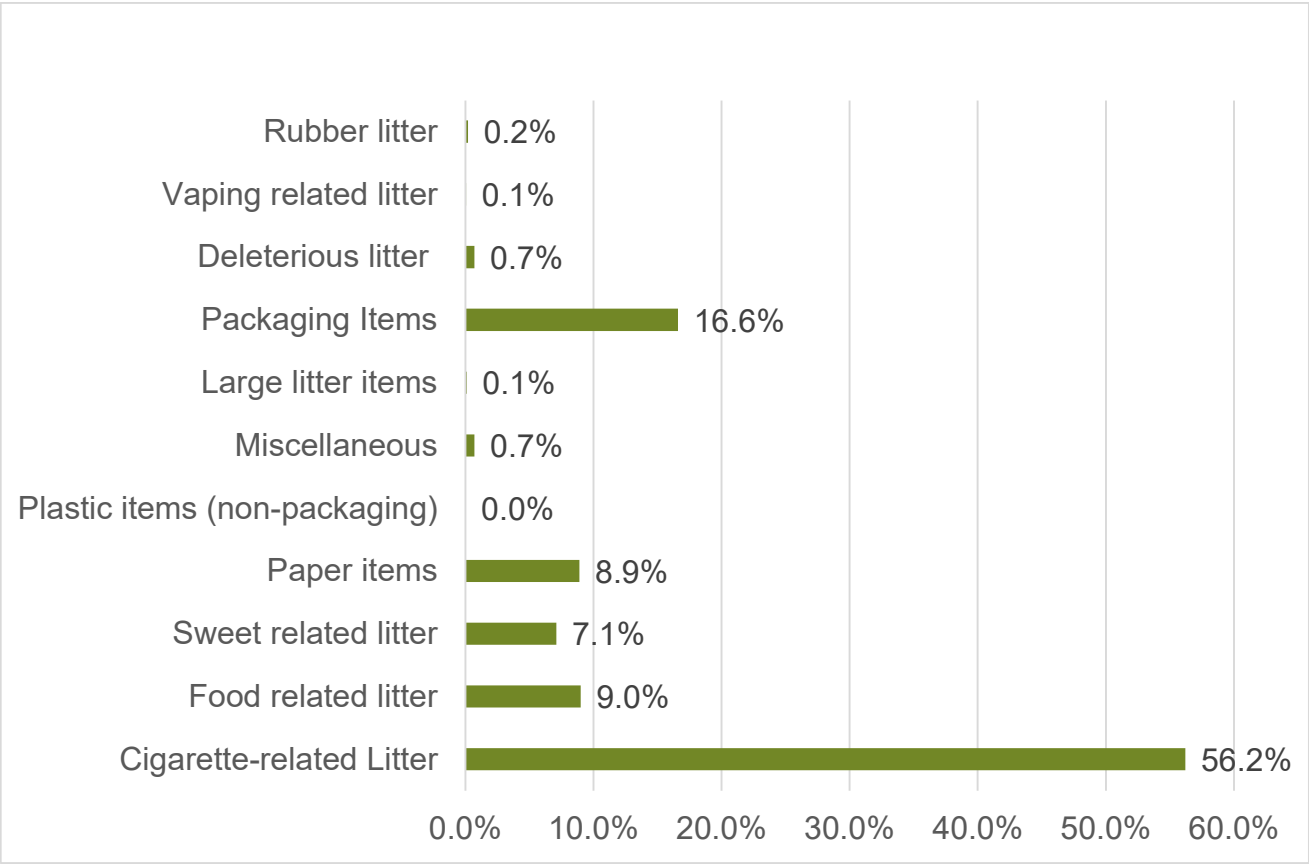
In all instances, Galway City Council will adopt a 'good practice', evidence-based approach. Learn from local, national and international experiences tackling litter, and changing behaviour and attitudes towards litter.

Appendix 1 – National Litter Pollution Monitoring Survey (NLPMS)

The results of the Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys from previous years are presented in the table below. Cigarette related litter, food litter and packaging letter are the worst sources of litter.

Litter Composition	2016 % of Total	2017 % of Total	2018 % of Total	2019 % of Total	2020 % of Total	2021 % of Total	2022 % of Total
Cigarette-related Litter	60.5%	50.6%	43.6%	49.9%	53.9%	54.2%	58.5%
Food Litter	13.0%	16.2%	17.7%	20.6%	13.5%	14.9%	10.3%
Sweet Related Litter	7.4%	8.7%	6.0%	10.0%	8.1%	7.5%	6.2%
Paper Litter	7.2%	9.9%	7.0%	6.9%	6.6%	6.5%	7.8%
Plastic Litter	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.00%
Miscellaneous Litter Items	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Bulky Litter	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Packaging Litter	11.2%	11.6%	22.7%	11.9%	15.0%	14.5%	15.3%
Deleterious Litter	0.7%	2.3%	2.4%	0.6%	1.7%	2.2%	1.5%

Litter Composition in Galway City Council (2023)



Appendix 2 – Information Booklet on Waste Services in Galway City – Love your City – Manage your Waste (June 2018)

Love your City – Manage Your Waste

Galway City operates a 'three bin' system in homes across the city. The bins are for:



Kialtas sa hEireann
Government of Ireland



Galway City Council



Waste Region

Recycling:

Clean, dry and loose waste, including rigid plastics, tins and cans, paper and cardboard. Ireland has a new household recycling list, see www.RecyclingIreland.ie for a downloadable list you can stick to your fridge. Most of our recycling is exported – making it even more important that it is clean, dry and loose.

Organic waste:

All food and garden waste e.g. cakes, dairy products, fish, poultry, fruit, grass and hedge clippings, coffee grounds, wet paper and cardboard, egg shells, bones and teapots. To reduce odour problems, and to keep the inside of your bin clean, you can wrap food waste in old newspaper before placing it in the bin. Most organic waste from Galway City is processed by Barna Recycling to produce compost which is used by farms around the county.

Waste Services in Galway City

Keeping Galway Clean and Green!

This handy leaflet outlines waste services available to households in Galway City – keep it in your kitchen for reference. You can find more information on www.galwaycity.ie or by calling Galway City Council Customer Services on 091 536 400.

General waste:

Non-hazardous waste that can be composted or recycled e.g. ashes, dirty plastic, nappies, vacuum wrappers, blades, dirty tin foil, meat wrapping, non-CFL lightbulbs, toothpaste tubes. This waste goes to landfill or by export for energy recovery.

Bonfires

Please don't leave material out for use to bonfire in your area. Lighting of bonfires is prohibited, and can be very dangerous - to children, wildlife, property and the environment. If you see a bonfire, please report it to Galway City Council on 091 536 400 or to the Environmental Protection Agency confidential telephone service on 1850 365 121 or on the 'See it Say it App' for iOS and Android.

Electrical Equipment

Did you know if you've bought a new electrical appliance or piece of equipment, the retailer will take back the old appliance/equipment, free of charge, one-for-one, like-for-like basis? Look for the WEEE symbol in shops.

Glass

You can recycle household glass at bottle banks around the city. Many of these locations also have textiles bins for recycling fabrics/clothes. See the full list on www.galwaycity.ie. If banks are full, please report them to Galway City Council Customer Services – please don't leave your bottles/textiles at full banks, as this is classified as illegal dumping. Many of the bottle banks have CCTV, which has been used to identify those leaving items at the bottle banks, and have led to fines being issued under the Litter Pollution Act.

Burning Waste

Sometimes people burn waste to save money or reduce waste going to landfill. But burning waste is not only a nuisance to neighbours, it can release many harmful chemicals into the air you breathe. These chemicals can include toxic dioxins which are a real environmental hazard, and can damage your health, as well as affecting children and people with asthma, bronchitis or heart conditions. Disposal of waste by uncontrolled burning is an offence under both the Air Pollution Act, 1987, and the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. If you see illegal burning of waste, please report it to Galway City Council on 091 536 400 or to the Environmental Protection Agency confidential telephone service on 1850 365 121 or on the 'See it Say it App' for iOS and Android.

Batteries

Batteries must never be placed in household waste – most batteries contain heavy metals, which are extremely hazardous to both the environment and human health, and can permeate into soil and water supplies if they are placed into landfill. You can return batteries, free of charge, in many shops or electrical retailers in the city. Galway City Council will also take back used batteries in the Civic Amenity Centre in Lisban Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway. You can collect a battery recycling box from City Hall to store your used batteries until you dispose of them.

Dogs

Dogs are man's best friend, but their faeces are not. Uncollected dog faeces are a health hazard that carry many infections including roundworm (which is a threat to barefooted children as it can pass through a child's skin), echinococcosis (where wind or flies transport parasite eggs to homes, where they can deposit on human food), fish tapeworm, brucellosis canis, and leptospirosis. It's also really smelly and hard to remove from carpets and shoes! Given these health hazards, it's really important that when your dog does its business, it's your business too! Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, dog owners are obliged to clean up after their pet if they foul in a public place e.g. the street, or a park. If you don't clean up after your pet, you may receive an on-the-spot fine of €150. If unpaid fines can lead to a prosecution in Court, with a much larger penalty.

Dog Licenses

All dogs must be licensed.

Type of Dog Licence	Cost	Purchase From
Standard Individual Dog Licence	€30	Online/Pet Office
General dog licences for multiple dogs (e.g. kennels)	€400	Local Authority only
Lifetime Dog licence	€340	Online/Pet Office

Licences can be purchased online at licences.ie

Bulky Goods

If you have waste that is too big for your household bins, you can avail of the Bulky Goods Collection Service. The cost of the service depends on what you want to dispose of. To check prices or to book a collection, contact Galway City Council's Customer Services team.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

If you have old clothes, textiles, toys, books or furniture that are in good condition, they could be donated to charity or given away through sites such as www.freetradeireland.ie. Check with your local school to see if they are having a car boot sale where you could sell your unwanted items.

Civic Amenity Site

Galway City Council provides a facility for households to dispose of items such as glass, oil, lightbulbs, batteries, waste electrical items, some household items, and crockery at the Lisban Civic Amenity Site, Lisban Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway. See the full list on www.galwaycity.ie. Please note paint is not currently accepted. Future collections will be advertised.

Litter and Illegal Dumping – It's Not in Our Nature, is it in Yours?

Litter is one of the visible, and unattractive, sides of waste generation. In 2017 187 Litter Fines were issued in Galway City. Galway City Council spends over €2million on street cleaning every year – this includes emptying bins, collecting litter, sweeping roads, sweeping footpaths, collecting illegally dumped material, and graffiti removal. Leaving or throwing litter in a public place is an offence which is liable to an on-the-spot fine of €150, with fines of up to €3,000 on conviction. This includes bottles or tins that have been left beside bottles/ waste bins. If banks are full, please report them to Galway City Council Customer Services. If you see illegal dumping, please report it to Galway City Council on 091 536 400 or to the Environmental Protection Agency confidential telephone service on 1850 365 121, or on the 'See it Say it App' for iOS and Android.

Community Clean Up

If you'd like to organise a community clean up, Galway City Council will provide bags and gloves, and will arrange pick up of green waste/ general litter.