

Waste prevention initiative at Local Authority operated swimming pools in Co. Cork.

Lead Authority

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Programme Summary

The aim is to change existing waste disposal practices of customers who visit and use our swimming pools. This change can be achieved using behavioural change educational and awareness programmes. New standards on waste elimination and prevention will be introduced at the pools and integrated into the daily operation and management of these facilities.

Assistance and training of Council staff in waste minimisation and prevention techniques is to be undertaken.

A reduction / elimination in the unnecessary volume of waste that is currently being generated.

Cork Co. Council operates three public swimming pools which are located in Mallow , Dunmanway and Fermoy. These towns have sizable and growing populations. 3400 children visit the pools each week in fulfilment of the physical education curriculum of which aquatics is one strand.

This throughput of customers generates a significant quantity of waste, most of which is left behind for Council staff to dispose off. The waste is mixed and generally soiled. Waste is left in the changing rooms, onsite café and outside the premises. A small level of recycling is in place; however, the pool managers are often forced to send this waste to landfill due to high soiling levels and non recyclable nature of the waste material.

Two of the pools have cafes on the premises which are open for public use and customers are encouraged to avail of this facility. Staff have small canteens for their private use during the course of their work. Currently, bio waste from these canteens is being landfilled.

This proposed initiative will fulfil specific requirements of the Council's waste management plan through the introduction of the tasks set out below. The use of, in-house training for staff on waste prevention techniques, in-house waste audits, the introduction of waste prevention–elimination programmes and the introduction of awareness raising programme for customers will ensure that the objectives of this initiative can be achieved.

At present the waste load is going to landfill. To introduce a programme aimed solely at mere recycling and reducing the soiling associated with recyclables materials is not proposed. That strategy would not see the desired change associated with waste prevention.

The programme intends to bring about change in our customers routine practices when using the swimming pool. The programme intends to shift disposal and recycling practices to the higher orders of waste prevention, minimisation and elimination.

in the region and eventually it should become the National Household Waste Prevention Tool Kit.