

# Tidy Districts Competition 2024

Application Form and Guidelines



## **Message from the Director of Infrastructure and Climate Change**

The Tidy Districts Competition gives Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council an opportunity to reward the many hard-working residents' associations and tidy towns groups in the county. The efforts of volunteers are to be commended, for giving up their own time to help build better places to live.

The Tidy Districts Competition also strives to foster a sense of pride in not only how well a place looks, but in how people feel about their community. These groups take on the responsibility for their own local environment and these efforts build better and more inclusive communities, not only for those who reside there, but for tourists and visitors to the county alike.

The Tidy Districts Competition has evolved over the years to focus, not only on the visual aspect of the tidy district, but also to include themes such as climate action, sustainability, biodiversity, innovation and education and awareness.

The Tidy Districts Competition is a great way to acknowledge the tangible, long-term environmental improvements created in the residential estates, towns and villages of our county. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will continue to support our communities by offering workshops, community clean-up materials and funding via the dlr Environment and Climate Action Grant.

I would encourage as many new groups as possible to enter the competition this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants in the competition over the years, who make lasting, positive contributions to their communities and help to keep our county clean and vibrant.

Paul Kennedy,  
Director of Services  
Infrastructure & Climate Change Dept.

## Terms and Conditions

- Applications are invited from housing estates, residential streets and towns or villages.
- All entrants must include a **map** which clearly indicates the area to be judged. Please highlight the roads and open spaces and the location of any special features.
- Entrants may include supporting documents to support their application and/or clarify particular challenges experienced in the previous 12 months (e.g. before and after photographs).
- Judging will take place in July and August 2024 as an unannounced visit from the competition judges.
- Judging will not take place during a scheduled local dlr event.
- The adjudicator's decision is final. No correspondence regarding the results will be entered in to.
- Closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.
- Results will be announced in October 2024.

## How to Enter

Applicants have the option of applying either online through the dlr submit portal, or by downloading an application form from the dlr website: <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/environment-awareness-education/tidy-districts>

Completed application forms should be returned by **5pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024** and submitted by one of the following methods:

1. Online through the dlr submit portal <https://submit.link/2Db>
2. By email to [tidydistricts@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:tidydistricts@dlrcoco.ie) or
3. By post to:

Environmental Awareness Section,  
Infrastructure and Climate Change Department,  
County Hall, Marine Road,  
Dun Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin, A96 K6C9.

If you have any queries, please contact us on 01-2054700 or by emailing [tidydistricts@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:tidydistricts@dlrcoco.ie).

## **Category Awards 2024**

- Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (5-100 dwellings)
- Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (101-200 dwellings)
- Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (201-350 dwellings)
- Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (351 dwellings and over)
- Best Estate Management Area (5-250 dwellings)
- Best Estate Management Area (251 dwellings and over)
- Best Town/Village pop (0-3000 people)
- Best Town/Village pop (3001 people and over)
- Most Improved Area(s)
- Best New Entry
- Overall Winner Tidy Districts

## **Optional Awards**

- Waste Prevention Award
- Green Schools Award
- Innovation Award

## Tidy Districts 2024 Application Form

<b>Tidy Districts 2024 Application Form</b>			
Group name			
Type of Group: (Residents Association, Estate Management, Tidy Towns Group, Tidy Districts Group)			
Group email address:			
Group website and/or social media address: (if applicable)			
Address and description of the area to be judged:			
Have you included a map? (all entrants must include a map of the area to be judged)			
Last year of entry:			
Category of entry: (Please tick one. If you are unsure, please check with the central statistics office: <a href="http://www.cso.ie">www.cso.ie</a> )	Housing Estate/Residential Street (Please include the approx. number of households)		
	Urban Town/ Village (Please include the estimated population)		
Contact name:			
Contact phone number:			
Contact email address:			
Contact postal address:			
Do you wish for your email address to be included in the Environmental Awareness mailing list?	Yes		
	No		
I/We have read the conditions of entry and agree to be bound by the rules and have full authorisation from the group to submit this application on their behalf*			
<b>Signed:</b> (digital or handwritten)		<b>Date:</b>	
*Completed entry forms must be authorized by the Chairperson or Secretary of the Resident Association/Community Group.			

**Buildings and Streetscapes****(20 marks)**

15 marks will be awarded for presentation and maintenance of all properties, maintenance of frontages, boundary and gable end walls. Gardens, where applicable, should be presented to a good standard. Please give details of maintenance, weeding, pathcleaning and sweeping, etc. Please specify if it is the Council, a contractor or the residents who are involved in each activity.

5 marks will be awarded for community actions that have been carried out to improve physical streetscape, paving, lighting, signage, or local accessibility for all.

**Landscaping and Green Spaces**

**(10 marks)**

Please give details of notable planted features. Please specify if it is the Council, a contractor or the residents who are involved in each activity.

**Natural Habitats and Biodiversity**

**(10 marks)**

Please outline how you improve the natural environment through planting and maintenance. Do you raise awareness to support biodiversity or plant native species (trees, shrubs, wildflowers) to attract local wildlife and support pollinators and habitats? Do you remove the use of pesticides and herbicides?

**Litter Management****(20 marks)**

10 marks are awarded for appearance during adjudication and 10 marks are available for awareness, actions and litter control strategies.

Adjudication will focus on the absence of litter, fly-posting and dumping, evidence of litter control strategy, litter patrols, community clean-ups and the promotion of anti-litter awareness throughout the community.

**Graffiti Management****(15 marks)**

10 marks are available for policies and procedures to manage graffiti. 5 marks are available for appearance during adjudication. Marks will be awarded for absence of graffiti and evidence of graffiti control strategy, including regular patrols and promotion of anti-graffiti awareness throughout the community.

**Community Engagement****(10 marks)**

10 marks are available for community involvement in environmental actions listed below. Please indicate the level of voluntary commitment (general involvement of the community at clean-ups, planting days, engaging new residents, meetings, etc.).

Do you involve all ages e.g. schools, Men's and Women's Sheds, Brownies or Scout groups etc.?

**Climate Action and Sustainability****(10 marks)**

5 marks are available for sustainability actions that reduce your group's environmental impact. Do you promote sustainable practices such as recycling, composting, water conservation or reducing single-use plastics and waste? Have you completed an up-cycle project or reused salvage materials for landscaping or biodiversity projects (e.g. a planter made from up-cycled wood, a sign made from up-cycled materials)?

5 marks are also available for climate actions that raise awareness of climate change and what communities can do in response, such as encouraging local food production and consumption, use of local resources, reducing food waste and tree planting initiatives. Raising awareness of sustainability and climate action through workshops, courses and campaigns is also welcomed.

**Communication****(5 marks)**

How do you communicate with your community (newsletter, noticeboard, local newspapers, public meetings, email, social media, WhatsApp group, website, etc.)? Do you make an effort to communicate with all ages within the community?

### **Optional Special Category**

These awards recognise communities that have undertaken activities that support waste prevention, Green Schools or innovation. Please complete the category below, if you wish to be considered for any of the optional awards. Please add attached pages if necessary.

#### **Optional Waste Prevention Award**

**/10**

Have you undertaken an initiative to reduce waste by upcycling or reusing materials in your community work or taken actions to save resources by preventing waste generation.

#### **Optional Green Schools Award**

**/10**

Do you engage with local Green Schools in your community, working with pupils and staff to enhance the local environment through sustainability or biodiversity initiatives or as part of community clean-ups?

#### **Optional Innovation Award**

**/10**

Do you employ any innovative methods, projects, or initiatives in your Tidy District community that you would like to highlight?