

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

The Tidy Districts initiative is Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council’s way of celebrating the incredible work being done by residents’ associations and community groups across the county. These volunteers generously give their time and energy to enhance their local environments, and their dedication plays a vital role in shaping vibrant, welcoming places to live, work, and visit.

This year, the Tidy Districts programme continues to evolve —moving beyond competition to focus on recognition, collaboration, and shared learning. The aim is to foster a deeper sense of pride in our communities, not just in how they look, but in how they function as inclusive, sustainable, and connected places.

The initiative now places greater emphasis on themes such as climate action, biodiversity, sustainability, innovation, and community engagement as well as acknowledging the endeavour made by all groups. These are the building blocks of resilient neighbourhoods, and the Council is proud to support groups who are leading the way in these areas.

Tidy Districts is about acknowledging the long-term environmental and social improvements being made in our towns, villages, and estates. Through supplying Community Clean-up resources, the dlr Environment and Climate Action Grant, and running events and programs in collaboration with voluntary groups, the Council remains committed to supporting this important work.

New groups are warmly welcomed to get involved this year. Whether it is a group that is just starting out or has been active for years, their contribution matters. On behalf of Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown I would like to extend a thank you in helping our County become cleaner, greener, and more connected.

James Phelan,

Director of Services

Infrastructure & Climate Change Department

# 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. A clear map is essential for our judges to accurately assess your area.
* Category descriptions are for guidance only; please include any information you deem relevant to the category.
* The Endeavour Recognition Category is not worth marks or grading in the adjudication
* Entrants are strongly encouraged to include images in their application (before and after pictures, group pictures etc.) these pictures and your visual story may feature as part of the presentations on the night. If there is any issue with supplying images, contact TidyDistricts@dlrcoco.ie.
* Judging will take place in July and August 2025 as an unannounced visit from the competition judges.
* Judging will not take place during a scheduled local dlr event.
* Closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm, Thursday 10th July, 2025**.
* Results will be announced in October 2025.

# 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, Thursday 10th July, 2025** and submitted by one of the following methods:

1. Online through the dlr submit portal <https://submit.link/3OZ>
2. By email to 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.

# 2025 Awards

# The Awards for the Tidy Districts Ceremony 2025 may include but are not limited to:

# Category Awards 2025

* Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (5-150 dwellings)
* Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (151-300 dwellings)
* Best Housing Estate / Apartment complex (301 dwellings and over)
* Best Estate Management Area (5-250 dwellings)
* Best Estate Management Area (251 dwellings and over)
* Best Town/Village pop (1-5000people)
* Best Town/Village pop (5001 people and over)
* Most Improved Area(s)
* Best New Entry
* Environmental Enforcement Wardens Awards
* Overall Winner Tidy Districts

# Celebration Awards 2025

* Streetscapes: litter and Graffiti
* Biodiversity and landscaping
* Circular Economy and Sustainable actions
* Community engagement and communications

# Endeavour Awards to be announced.

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| **Tidy Districts 2025 Application Form** |
| Group name  |  |
| 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 including any notable features) |  |
| Last year of entry: |  |
| Category of entry:(Please tick one. If you are unsure, please check with the central statistics office: www.cso.ie)Contact name: |  | Select your Group Type | Indicate community size  |
| Estate Management Group (Please include the approx. **number of households**) |  |  |
| Housing Estate/Residential Street (Please include the approx. **number of households**) |  |  |
| Urban Town/ Village(Please include the **estimated** **population**) |  |  |
| Contact phone number: |  |
| Contact email address: |  |
| Contact postal address: |  |
| Does Tidy Districts have permission to use any attached images as part of a rolling presentation to highlight your groups work on the night of the awards? | Yes |
| No |
| 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\* |
| **Signed:**Digital or handwritten**Print name:**  |  | **Date:** |  |
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| \*Completed entry forms must be authorized by the Chairperson or Secretary of the Resident Association/Community Group. |

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| **Streetscapes: Litter and Graffiti (15 marks)****15 marks** for the community actions on managing your streetscapes and environment. Please give details of:* Your group’s accomplishments in maintaining and enhancing your streetscapes (e.g. community clean ups, weeding, path cleaning, litter and graffiti management and awareness projects).
* Please specify if it is the Council, a contractor or the residents who are involved in each activity.

**Include pictures of your clean-up efforts and any related media you would like to highlight.** |
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| **Landscaping and Biodiversity (15 marks)****15 marks** are available for the landscaping and beautifying environment and promoting biodiversity with community actions. * Please give details of notable planted features and landscaping projects / achievements
* Outline how you improve the natural environment through planting and maintenance
* Please specify if it is the Council, a contractor or residents who are involved in each activity.
* Give details on any introduction of native, pollinating plants etc. to your area.
* Outline if you support biodiversity in your area (Rewilding, No-Mow May etc.) and if you raise local biodiversity awareness in your group and beyond.
* Outline any related policies your group has (non-chemical gardening etc.)

**Include images of any landscaping and biodiversity projects you would like to highlight.** |
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| **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.

**Include images of any projects you would like to highlight.** |
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| **Community Engagement and Communication (10 marks)****5 marks** are available for how you have engaged your local community. * Have you collaborated with local Community groups (men’s and women’s sheds, Scouts, Brownies etc.), local secondary and primary Schools or local businesses etc.
* Have you had any successful recruitment or engagement events? Have you made your organisation open to all residents.
* Please indicate the level of voluntary commitment (general involvement of the community at clean-ups, planting days, engaging new residents, meetings, etc.).

**5 marks** are available for how your group has communicated with your community.* Do you have a social media presence. Do you have a newsletter or notice board to inform your community?

**Include pictures of your group meetups and successful community engagement projects** |
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| **Endeavour Recognition / Moment to Celebrate**Under the theme of celebration, we are asking groups to describe a moment of endeavour from the past year. This could be a project, a memory, or a source of pride that you would like to share.As with the other categories, we encourage the inclusion of images in support of your celebration so that we can showcase all celebrations as part of our presentation. |
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**Thank you for applying**

