



## Eco-friendly Driving Campaign for Council



Dublin City Council, in partnership with Codema, Dublin's sustainable energy agency, is asking all drivers working for the Council to reduce their carbon footprint by 3 per cent.

A new 'eco-friendly driving campaign' is being rolled out in the Council over the coming weeks. The campaign is part of the 'Minus 3 per cent' campaign, which is a European project that aims to reduce energy use in Local Authorities by 30 per cent by 2020.

Increasing awareness of eco-driving among the Council's drivers is just one of the many actions that Codema is helping to implement in order to reduce Dublin City Council's energy consumption. It complements the principles of the ongoing 'Switch Off Campaign', which has already observed savings of 13 per cent in the Civic Offices alone since it began earlier this year.

Dublin City Council has more than 900 vehicles on the streets of Dublin every day. Nearly all of these vehicles are diesel engines that are serviced regularly to keep them in tiptop condition. While all these vehicles are needed to do the work of the Council, they create a lot of carbon emissions. However, good driving habits that incorporate smooth and safe driving techniques help to reduce these emissions

while also delivering benefits in terms of road safety and savings in fuel consumption.

Fleet Management Services is encouraging drivers to decrease their carbon footprint by 3 per cent by following a few simple steps:

- Only carry the equipment that you need with you. An extra 100 pounds or 45 kilos can reduce your fuel economy by up to two per cent.
- Check your tyre pressure – under inflated tyres mean that you will use more fuel and tyres will also wear more quickly.
- Turn that engine off if you are loading your vehicle or waiting for somebody to arrive. When an engine is idling, it is using fuel but not going anywhere.
- Plan your trips and study the route you are taking.
- Avoid unnecessary rapid acceleration and hard braking.

In addition to the above, Dublin City Council is running Occupational Driving Training Courses for all our drivers which include the principles of eco-friendly driving. These principles will be highlighted during this campaign. If we can achieve our target of a three per cent reduction in fuel consumption this will be a saving of 280 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>.

Future editions of Firstpost will be used to raise awareness about the campaign. (A special thanks to Suzanne McDermott, Customer Services Centre for all the work she put in to the initial concept for the posters for this campaign).

For further information contact Fleet Management Services T. 222 7503

## Winners of Dublin City Neighbourhoods Awards 2009

Lord Mayor Councillor Emer Costello announced the winners of the Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards 2009 at a ceremony in Croke Park on 24th September. Charlemont Court Senior Citizens, representing the South East Area, were overall winners in the residential competition. De Courcey Square Residents Association from the Central Area came second overall. Walkinstown Association Gardening Project was the overall winner in the business competition.

Speaking at the event, Lord Mayor Councillor Emer Costello congratulated everybody involved for the huge effort they made. "Everyone who takes part is a winner and their award is having tidier streets and a cleaner, more attractive environment," she said. "I would like to congratulate the residents, businesses and schools who have put so much time and effort into working together to improve their local area. The results of their work are obvious for all to see. It is their collective commitment to these awards that really ensures that our city is a great place to live and work in".

For more information, contact Bernie Lillis, Anti-Litter Officer, T. 222 4243.



Lord Mayor Councillor Emer Costello and City Manager John Tierney pictured with Patricia Lynch and Lola Humphreys, Charlemont Resident's Association.