

My name is Martina Healy,

I would like to make a submission based on my experience of litter picking.

Submission.

Could it be possible for Leitrim County Council / subcontractor, when involved in roadworks etc, to remove all safety road signage, when the work is completed.

Over the past two years, in my area, I have noticed these signs in ditches and alongside roads.

Is there a reference on paper or electronically which keeps a record of where these signs are erected?

If not, could I propose that a map is used to record the signs locations and when the job is completed the signs are removed, and counted, so that they can be re used.

Recent statistics show that Ireland is the number one plastic waste producer in the European Union, with 54kg of plastic waste per person produced each year, as well as being the country with the fourth lowest recycling rate.

When these signs are uncollected the following points must be considered,

- 1 The product, i.e. the sign, is wasted, and must be reproduced.
Reusing instead of purchasing them for single use, is one way of reducing waste.
- 2 Reusing and repurposing. In times when resources were valued and energy didn't come as easily, items were made to be reused again and again.
- 3 For those of us looking to care for the planet, we need to get back to reusing, and, when items can't be reused, we need to find ways to repurpose them. Recycling should be a last option, just before the bin.
- 4 When we know that we aren't simply going to throw items away and buy replacements, we are inclined to buy something of higher quality, something that will last, and something we actually need. A consumer culture with high waste output encourages us to buy cheap, replace often, and shop recklessly. If things are meant to last and meant to be reused, we are more likely to think about what we buy. I notice the newer road traffic cones; the reflective bands are coming off and breaking down.
- 5 Reusing and repurposing puts us more in charge of the waste we create, which makes us much more conscious of having to deal with it. What's more, and much more importantly, is that when we reuse and repurpose, we are apt to reduce our consumption.

Another point that I would like to make is the fact that land litter does end up in our waterways, lakes, seas, and oceans.

People & the Economy are affected by this through -

- Ingestion of microplastics – as plastic breaks down it creates smaller and smaller pieces of plastic that end up in the food chain.
- Damage to fishing boats and gear.
- Contamination of beaches.
- Negative impact to the scenery of coastal areas.

So, to conclude this submission, I would like Leitrim County Council to consider, when plastic signage is left uncollected, and churned up and dispersed by hedge cutting machines,. The knock-on effect of the damage to the environment, out weights the replacement of this signage financially.

Thank you for your time,

Yours faithfully,

Martina Healy,

See Instagram and facebook.