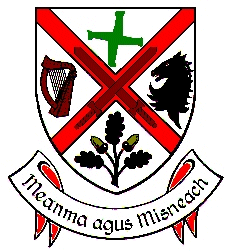
**Kildare County Council**



**This Halloween, if you are collecting/storing waste for a bonfire, please think twice.**

As Halloween approaches, Kildare County Council wishes to remind all householders of the risks arising from bonfires, the illegal nature of the activity, the effects on the local community and the negative effect on the general environment. **In many housing estates, the practice of having bonfires has ceased, so where bonfires continue, you are more likely to get waste from other areas being brought to your housing estate.**

With this in mind, please note the following:

* It is illegal to dump or burn waste/rubbish of any description (including for a bonfire).
* It is illegal to allow unauthorised waste collectors to collect and dispose of waste.
* Every individual has a responsibility to dispose of his/her waste correctly and legally. Providing household waste materials for burning in a Halloween bonfire is committing a criminal offence.
* Bonfires cause dangerous pollution. Poisonous toxins (dioxins) are one of the many chemicals released into the air, where they linger in the aftermath of the fire. These toxins contaminate the land around the fire and any area the smoke passes over.
* Bonfire smoke prevents your neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out, and reduces visibility in the neighbourhood and on roads.
* Fire from bonfires is a potential safety risk as it can spread to nearby fences or buildings.
* When the bonfire finishes burning, it can take several months for a green to recover.
* Fines (ranging from €150 to €3,000) can be imposed on those responsible for providing and / or stockpiling rubbish for bonfires.

The Council, with the support of Local Residents Associations and the Community Garda, is appealing to local communities not to contribute to any bonfires this Halloween, and to respect both the environment and the health of your children and neighbours.

Thank you

Environment and Housing Sections, Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare

[www.kildare.ie/countycouncil](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil)