

INTRODUCTION

In my home town of Trim, county Meath in Ireland we pride ourselves on the care we take of our town but since COVID 19 hit nothing has been the same.

You would think that the impact of COVID 19 would drastically benefit the environment and the regeneration of damaged biodiversity.

And you would be right, after all fish have returned to the canals in Venice and foxes have been spotted roaming the streets of Dublin.

But like all good things this will come to an end, and instead of a quick fix we need to take action and make lasting meaningful changes that will impact the planet for generations to come.

HOW TRIM IS EFFECTED

In Trim we rely on the river boyne for many reasons, that include but are not limited to, collection for reservoirs, sewage disposal etc.

But in recent years during the summer it and many other water supplies have been reaching record lows, due to the increased heat caused by climate change or global warming.

Although it may seem humorous at first that the methane gas produced by livestock is harming the environment and contributing to climate change, but up to 33.3% (CSO an príomh oifig staidrimh) of global greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2017 come from livestock, and Trim being a rural town in Ireland is no stranger to livestock.



HOW COVID 19 EFFECTS US

As the world knows we have been up to our eyes in covid 19 and from a purely environmental standpoint that comes with various pros and cons.

On the issue of the loss of biodiversity covid 19 really has opened our eyes to the fact that it is not too late to change and help the ecosystem around us. For example, as you might have seen, thanks to the lack of humans, fish have returned to the canals of Venice and foxes have been sighted roaming the streets of Dublin.

But on the growing problem of litter it hasn't been so helpful. Let me explain, as you can see those disposable yet helpful masks litter the streets and after doing their valuable job simply lay there adding to the problem. At my school the transition year students normally go out and pick up litter every friday, but sadly that can't happen anymore.

So please, I implore you to think about the damage carelessness is causing to the planet.



In an interview with the Site Manager at the Trim recycling centre, I asked these questions:

- **What is the main thing being recycled here?**
 - He answered that cardboard is the main material being recycled, which is good since cardboard is recyclable.
- **What do you think people don't recycle enough of?**
 - Which he answered plastic bags.
 - Now that is a problem, because what do you see in the oceans - plastic bags.
 - What do you see killing biodiversity, plastic bags and what did he say isn't being recycled enough when you could easily do so and help the environment drastically - plastic bags.
- **And the final question I asked was what percentage of the total rubbish coming in here is sent to deep burial?**
 - He answered with the figure 10%, although at first glance that seems rather good, think that one tenth of every household in Trim's rubbish is sent into a landfill. Then it doesn't seem so good.

WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT?

After all of that doom and gloom let's get to how exactly we could fix all of this pollution and climate change.

The answer,

long lasting changes. Let me elaborate, you see how people go on diets and gain weight right back. It's the same principle with our planet, you see for example, if an addict gets their fix it will stop withdrawals but it won't fix the problem. Like the way if we just do quick fixes and hope the problem will be resolved, not the case, but however we need a lifestyle change to create long lasting results that will become the new normal and change the world for the better.

We need to educate people on this and how it is truly a problem that needs to be resolved and that must be taken seriously and can't be just ignored and will fix itself.

The way that is most effective for tackling the issue of covid 19 is by using common sense and wearing masks, social distancing and going out only on essential trips and going on a shopping trip isn't essential. If we stick to this we will be much better off and will overcome this virus.

In Trim we need to be educated that although we live in a little town in Ireland that doesn't mean we are immune to all the bad things you normally only hear of on the news, but we can also go on doing all the things we were able to do to keep our town clean, but to do that we have to get over this virus.

References,

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-eii/eii19/greenhousegasesandclimatechange/>