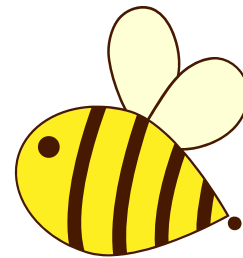
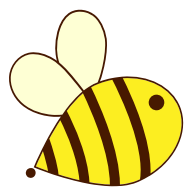


Fingal County Council Environmental Awareness Newsletter



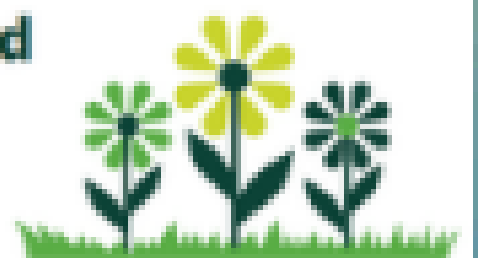
SPRING 2025



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



**Environment and
Climate Action**
Fingal County
Council



Hi everyone, Jennifer Muscheidt here, your Environmental Awareness Officer.

Welcome to our Spring newsletter! It's packed with updates on recent activities and some fantastic ongoing initiatives – like the Reuse Paint Project in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre and the Replay Instruments Project.

We're also looking for your input on the Draft Litter Management Plan, and we've got details on Dublin Climate Action Week, upcoming Community Climate Action Fingal Fund opportunities, as well as handy waste management tips, info on what fruit and veg are in season, and key environmental dates to keep an eye on.

Check out all the details on our website.

Thanks for reading and for being part of the journey!

[Environmental Awareness](#) | [Fingal County Council](#)

Fun Zero Waste Easter Ideas

Easter is a time for fun, creativity, and easter egg hunts, but it doesn't have to come at the cost of the environment. Here are some eco-friendly, zero waste ideas for a memorable Easter celebration.



1. Make Your Own Easter Cards

Create your own Easter greetings using recycled paper, old cards, or even fabric scraps. Let the kids get creative with drawings, collages, or handprints. It's a great way to add a personal touch and reduce waste.

2. Upcycled Easter Decorations

Get creative with decorations by upcycling old magazines, newspapers, or cardboard to craft fun DIY projects. Make paper garlands, papier-mâché animals, or even reusable bunny-shaped stencils to decorate your space.

3. Natural Dye Easter Eggs

Say goodbye to shop bought dyes. You can create beautiful, vibrant eggs using ingredients from your kitchen—like red cabbage, turmeric, and beetroot. Not only is this eco-friendly, but you can experiment with different colour combinations for a unique look.

4. DIY Paperless Easter Egg Hunt

As an alternative to using paper or plastic eggs for a traditional Easter egg hunt, hide small, reusable containers or fabric pouches. You can also make your own "eggs" by using natural materials like coconut shells or hollowed-out wooden eggs that can be refilled with treats each year.

5. DIY Fabric Easter Baskets

Say no to buying plastic baskets and create your own using fabric scraps or old t-shirts. You can repurpose material you already have, adding unique colours and designs. Personalise them with names or fun messages to make each basket special.

6. Edible Easter Basket Filler

Instead of using plastic grass or fake filler, opt for edible treats like homemade granola, nuts, or homemade cookies. This way, everything in the basket can be eaten, leaving zero waste behind.

7. Upcycled Egg Carton Crafts

Don't throw away your egg cartons. They can be transformed into fun crafts like bunny ears, mini bird feeders, or even painted as little Easter animals. This activity is perfect for kids and offers a fun, sustainable way to reuse everyday items.

8. Plant a Garden Together

Easter is a great time to start a garden. Whether it's planting flowers, vegetables, or herbs, it's an opportunity to teach children about nature and sustainability. You can even use the Easter eggshells to start seedlings, turning them into biodegradable pots!

With these simple, fun ideas, you can make this Easter both joyful and kind to the planet! It's all about being mindful, creative, and making memories that won't create waste.

Malahide Community School Project

The poster on the following page was prepared by Yasmine Ibnouzahir and Niamh Fallon of Malahide Community School for their Leaving Cert project in Society and Politics.



Both students visited our Council Chamber in Swords to present their findings to the Mayor, the Climate Action and Environmental Awareness Team.

The poster highlights the urgency of climate action and reveals what Fingal County Council are already doing to combat it in reaching the targets of the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Thank you to Yasmine and Niamh for contributing this informative piece of work.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN IRELAND

How climate change is affecting the country

1. RISING TEMPERATURES

The pace of warming in Ireland has quickened in recent decades with 16 of the 20 warmest years on record occurring since 1990

2023 was the warmest year on record for Ireland. The average annual temperatures rose above 11 C for the first time.

These record-breaking extremes have a chain of consequences in store for society.

2. FLOODING

2023 was the wettest year in Ireland on record.

2023 saw numerous flooding events, particularly in August during storm Betty and in October during storm Babet.

This is extremely worrying as in October 2023 400 homes and 300 business in Cork were subject to flooding damages.

3. GREENHOUSE GASES

Ireland greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 9.2% from 1990 to 2022.

If this continues to rise the consequences will be fatal.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

Climate change is causing events such as flooding and rise of temperatures which is infringing on our constitutional right to life which includes the right to adequate shelter food and water.

This is making people vulnerable and putting them at risk.

These events are putting our right to life in jeopardy and if we don't act now the climate crisis will only continue to worsen.

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal County Council are acting against Climate Change through the targets of their Climate Action Plan of 2024-2029. This plan's themes include Energy & Buildings/ Transport/ Flood Resilience/ Nature Based Solutions/ and Circular Economy & Resource Management and Community Engagement. The plan and the reports of how Fingal are progressing can be found at:

<https://www.fingal.ie/ClimateAction/climate-action-plan-2024-2029>

So far Fingal has reduced emissions and made our locality more climate resilient by:

- Retrofitting public buildings to reduce the county's energy use.
- Making the transition to a fully electrified fleet of vehicles in the organisation.
- Promoting Active Travel with "Safe Routes to School", an initiative that ensures school students can cycle/ walk / take a scooter to school in a safer way.
- Identifying new ways to repurpose or reuse items left in the recycling centres with initiatives such as the Fingal Replay Instruments Project.
- Protecting our coastlines by placing boulders on beach strands, and limiting access to the dunes, protecting biodiversity.
- Providing grants through the Community Climate Action Fund which aids the insulation of organisational buildings, the installation of solar panels and the planting of trees.
- Organising public events to educate Fingal on Climate Change with events such as the annual Dublin Climate Action Festival.

6TH YEARS SAY THAT WE MUST ACT NOW FOR A SAFE FUTURE

Yasmine Ibnouzahir and Niamh Fallon, Ms. Kennedys 6th year Politics and Society students

REFERENCES

Citation: O'Brien, E., & Nolan, P. (2023). TRANSLATE: standardised climate projections for Ireland. *Frontiers in Climate*, 5, 1166226.

Citation: Clarke, B. et al., (2024) Climate change made the extreme 2-day rainfall event associated with flooding in Malinbeg, Ireland more likely and more intense. Technical Report, Imperial College London, London.

Citation: CSO. (2023) Environmental Indicators Ireland 2023.CSO statistical release.

Fingal County Council. (2024) Climate Action Plan 2024- 2029



Free Recycled Paint: For Community Spaces and Schools

Recycled paint is available for use by community groups in community spaces and for schools. Typically, the available colours are magnolia and grey, but other colours may be available from time to time. Be sure to specify whether you need interior or exterior paint.

This paint is sourced from the Fingal Recycling Centres and processed by the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun as part of a waste prevention and circular economy initiative in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre.



To request paint, email dave@rediscoverycentre.ie with the following details

- What you plan to paint
- The area to be painted (in square metres)
- Preferred colours

Replay Instruments Project

Have you heard about our Replay Instruments Project? It's a circular economy initiative where we collect preloved musical instruments—whether they're collecting dust or need a little repair—and give them a new life! You can donate instruments at either of Fingal's Recycling Centres in Coolmine or Estuary Swords. As part of the project, we clean, repair, and redistribute the instruments to schools and community groups in need and individuals.

We accept all kinds of instruments, accessories, and small practice amps, cables, etc. (Please note, we can't accept pianos, but we encourage you to contact local voluntary groups if you're looking to donate one).

What is a circular economy?

A circular economy aims to reduce waste by keeping resources in use for as long as possible. Unlike the traditional “take-make-dispose” model, products in a circular economy are designed, produced, and managed to be reused, refurbished, or recycled. This not only extends the life cycle of products but also reduces environmental impact, conserves natural resources, and fosters sustainability.



RePlay
Instruments Project

Are your old or broken musical instruments gathering dust?

Find out more: 

You can drop unused or unwanted musical instruments to our Recycling centres at Estuary Swords and Coolmine.

We clean and repair the instruments and offer them to schools, migrant centres, community groups, centres for autism and rehabilitation.

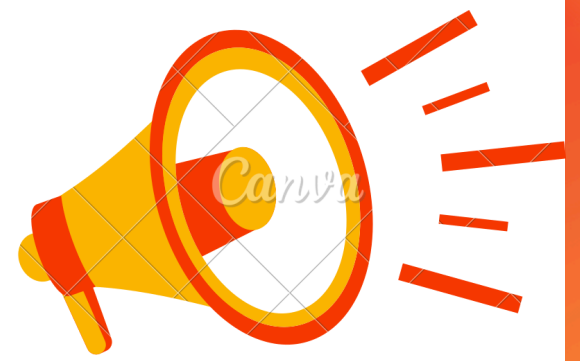
This is a ReUse Project



Calling all schools and community groups.

If your school or community group is in need of instruments, please let us know by completing the following form:

https://forms.office.com/e/b0Si9LtZJg_



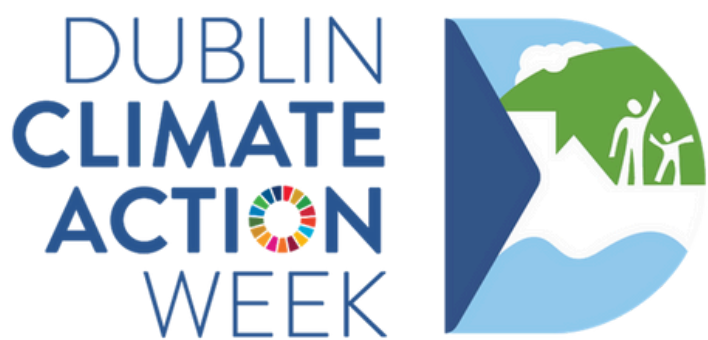
Let us know exactly what instruments you're looking for, and we'll do our best to match you with available donations or future ones. Help us keep music alive and thriving in our communities.

The Environmental Awareness Officer recently had the privilege of meeting with representatives from both Crosscare Donabate and Music Generation, along with the participants in the guitar lessons as part of the Instruments Project



This initiative is a shining example of how the circular economy is making waves at the grassroots level, and it's exciting to see the positive ripple effect that it is creating. Rush Youthreach received a donation of instruments this month giving more young people the opportunity to explore their musical potential.

12 - 18 May 2025



Dublin Climate Action Week 2025 (#DCAW) **12th to 18th May 2025**

The week, which is being organised and delivered by the partnership of Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency, will feature regional and local events covering a range of topics and will showcase the ongoing efforts, ambitions and the collaborative approach of the four Dublin local authorities, in addressing climate action.

This year, Dublin Climate Action Week 2025 will coincide with National Bike Week, bringing together climate action and active travel to highlight the strong connection between sustainable transportation and climate solutions. Through workshops, interactive activities, demonstrations, family fun days and festivals participants will have the opportunity to learn how small everyday changes can contribute to a healthier environment.

Getting involved with Dublin Climate Action Week 2025 is a great way to strengthen connections between groups, businesses, and organisations within the community, find out what is happening in your area at www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie.

The full programme of events will open for bookings in mid-April 2025.

Green Schools

It's been a whirlwind of activity for schools on the Green-Schools programme as they submitted their applications for their Green Flags and welcomed visits from the Environmental Awareness Officer. This year 20 schools in Fingal are going all out across various themes like Litter & Waste, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship, Marine Environment, and Primary Climate Ambassadors.



The energy and enthusiasm from these schools is contagious—it's inspiring to see so many students diving into environmental stewardship with such passion.

Check out Buí from Ghaelscoil Bhaile Brigín's Green-Schools Committee, lending a helping hand with food waste management. Now that's what we call a green hero! Good luck to all schools applying.

Relove Fashion

19 entries were submitted by secondary school students in Fingal to the Relove Fashion Campaign, run by the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's leading centre for Circular Economy, and supported by Fingal County Council. Participation in the competition has helped raise awareness of the environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry, as well as the role young people can play in reshaping their relationship with fast fashion and fostering a more sustainable approach to clothing.



Two of our Fingalian applicants have made it to the grand final on April 30th—one individual entry and one from Le Chéile Secondary School. We're cheering them on and wishing them the very best of luck as they continue to shine in this fantastic competition.

Community Climate Action Fingal

Community Climate Action Fingal supports climate actions at community level for community/ voluntary organisation's buildings, gardens, facilities and services. A wide range of projects were approved for funding during the first round. We are now preparing for Round 2 in advance of the grant being announced by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

There are five themes in the grant Community Energy, Travel, Shopping and Recycling, Food and Waste and Environmental/ Climate projects. You can visit the webpage [Community Climate Action Fingal | Fingal County Council](#) to find out if your group/ Organisation is eligible and if you would like to discuss any potential projects you can contact the Community Climate Action Officer.

Community Climate Action Fingal

Funding Community projects to Reduce Emissions



COMMUNITY ENERGY



TRAVEL



FOOD & WASTE



LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



SHOPPING & RECYCLING

Fingal County Council Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027

The public consultation for the Fingal County Council Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027 is now live. To find out how to view our Draft Plan and make a submission, please log onto

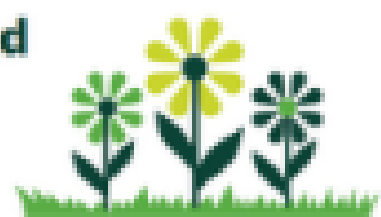
Consultation for Fingal County Council Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027



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Composting at Home

As the chilly nights give way to those lovely spring buds, it's the perfect time to think about your garden—and what better way to boost your green thumb than by composting? Not only does it help reduce waste and save you some cash, but it also gives your soil a fertility boost. When considering composting at home, it is important to learn how to establish and manage the heap, to ensure your garden compost does not generate nuisance smells and unwanted animal visitors.

Managing Food Waste at Home

Got food scraps and garden clippings piling up? Time to make the most of your brown bin. Not only does recycling food and garden waste help the planet, but it can also save you some cash on waste collection fees. The MyWaste website has a treasure trove of handy guides, downloadable stickers, and tips to help you make the most of your brown bin at home. So let's get recycling—your bin and your wallet will thank you! Please visit [The brown bin - My Waste](http://www.mywaste.ie)

What **FOOD WASTE** CAN I recycle?



- Raw & cooked food
- Eggshells
- Fruit & veg
- Dairy Products
- Bread
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Kitchen roll/tissue
- Meat & fish

What **CANNOT BE PLACED** in your food waste recycling bin?



- No Plastic packaging
- No Glass packaging
- No Metal packaging

For more information, visit Ireland's Official Guide to Waste Management
www.mywaste.ie

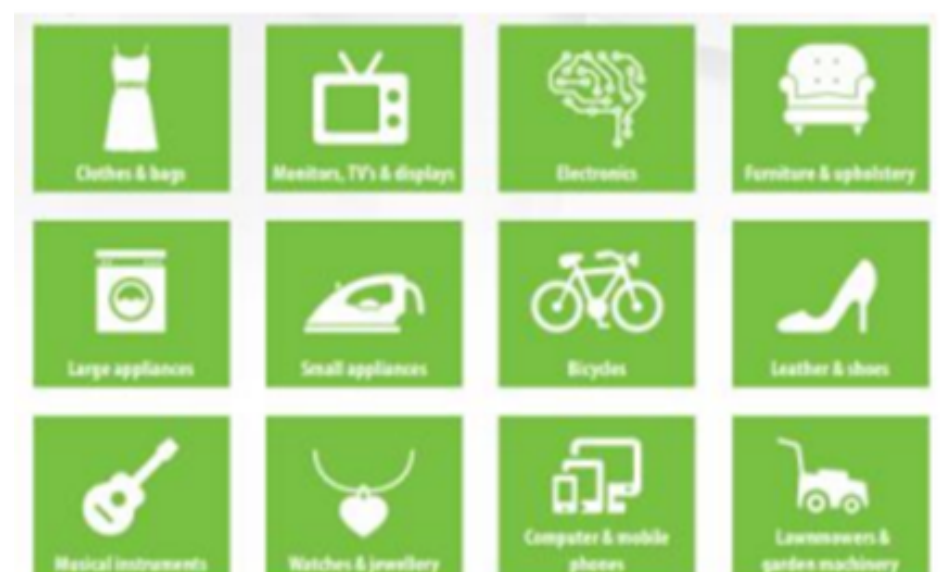


We all create huge amounts of waste—every minute, every day. But hey, it's time to shake things up. Fast fashion, single-use products, and things designed to break quickly aren't the answer. Instead of constantly buying new stuff, let's embrace the power of repair, reuse, and upcycling. Not only can we get more out of what we already own, but making these positive choices helps cut down waste, reduce our climate impact, and even save some cash.

Got questions about managing waste at home or recycling locally? Head over to www.mywaste.ie for all the info you need.



When your laptop or washing machine breaks, the usual reaction might be to just buy a new one. But guess what? Repairing is often cheaper and way more eco-friendly. Check out www.RepairMyStuff.ie to find local repair pros who can give your old gadgets a second life. It's free for businesses to register, and the site is a non-profit initiative proudly supported by Fingal County Council and created by Local Authorities with the EPA. Let's keep things working and keep them out of landfills.



Seasonal Food Calendar

Eating locally grown, seasonal foods is a fantastic way to shrink the environmental footprint of your meals. And here's the fun part: the Stop Food Waste Seasonal Food Calendar makes it super easy to know when Irish produce is at its best. Want to get in the know and make better choices? Download the 2025 Seasonal Food Calendar and dive into tips on reducing food waste at <https://stopfoodwaste.ie> Let's eat smart, save money, and do good for the planet!

April

Seasonal Food Calendar

Asparagus	Cabbage	Cauliflower
Chard	Cooking Apples	Kale
Leeks	Mushrooms	Parsnips
Rhubarb	Round Lettuce	

= FROM STORAGE

Ireland

Leave No Trace

www.leavenotraceireland.org

7 PRINCIPLES

- 1 Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2 Be Considerate of Others
- 3 Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
- 4 Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
- 5 Leave What You Find
- 6 Dispose of Waste Properly
- 7 Minimise the Effects of Fire

Love this place, Leave No Trace

As the weather improves and evenings lengthen, we will be spending more time outdoors, enjoying all the great amenities that are on our doorsteps, such as our parks, beaches, forests, trails, nature reserves and much more. When we visit and enjoy these amenities, the 7 principles of Leave No Trace should be followed. The “Love This Place” Campaign from Leave No Trace highlights the need to ensure that we remove any litter that we create to minimise the impact that we have on our natural heritage.

Upcoming Environmental Dates

April 22nd: Earth Day

May 10th-18th: Bike Week

May 12th-18th: Dublin Climate Action Week

May 20th: World Bee Day

May 22nd: International Day of Biological Diversity

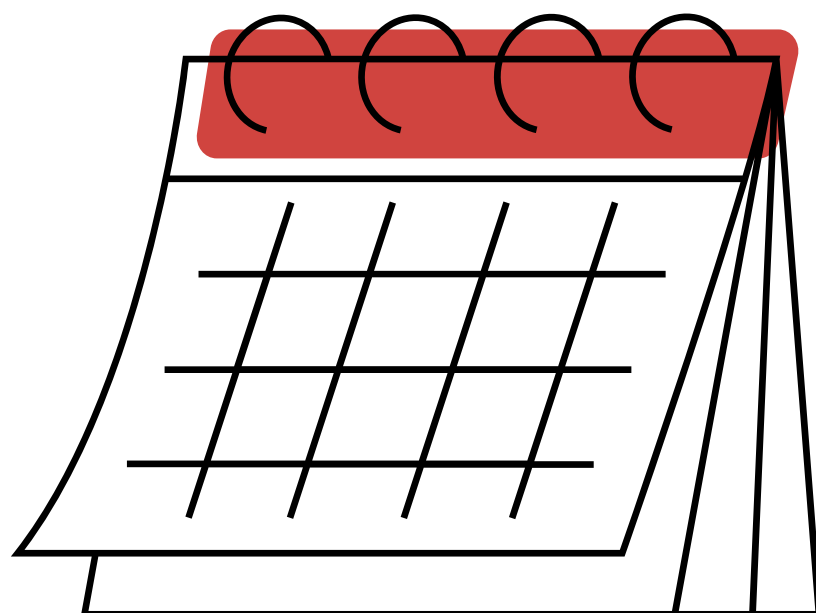
May 19th-23rd: Green-Schools Biodiversity Week

June 1st-8th: National Food Waste Recycling Week

June 3rd: World Bicycle Day

June 5th: World Environment Day

June 8th: World Oceans Day



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