

Welcome to the Environmental Awareness and Climate Action Newsletter

What to expect from this issue:

Updates from our team

Eco-tips for March

Waste reduction resources



Attention Community Groups

The annual Fingal Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti (ALAG) Grant is now inviting applications for 2026.

The ALAG grant supports community-led projects that help keep Fingal clean, vibrant, litter-free, and graffiti-free. These projects include local litter clean-ups, painting of estate walls and community murals, creating biodiversity areas in areas prone to litter and dumping, and awareness campaigns promoting litter and cigarette butt disposal. The fund is part-sponsored by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and is open to community groups only. The closing date is Friday 17th April 2026, at 4:30 pm

For further details on the grant and for information on how to apply, click [here](#).

Dublin Climate Action Week 2026

Mark your calendars; Dublin Climate Action Week is set to take place from May 11th to 17th this year. With a range of events planned across the Dublin region, there will be something for everyone! To keep up to date with the week and be the first to see events planned when they go live in April, click [here](#).



National Spring Clean 2026

National Spring Clean is Ireland's leading and most widely recognised anti-litter campaign. Running since 1999, the initiative takes place throughout April and encourages individuals, communities, and organisations across the country to take an active role in reducing litter by organising clean-ups in their local areas. Click [here](#) to find out more, and if you are interested in getting involved, register [here](#).

A promotional graphic for National Spring Clean 2026. The background is a solid green color. At the top left, the hashtag '#SPRINGCLEAN26' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, on the right side, is a white rounded rectangular box containing text. The text inside the box reads: 'We are calling people of all ages to gather friends, family, classmates, neighbours or colleagues to unite in cleaning their shared green spaces together.' Below this text, the phrase 'LET'S MAKE #SPRINGCLEAN26 OUR BEST YET' is written in bold, green, sans-serif font. To the left of the text box, there is an illustration of three people participating in a clean-up. One person is standing and holding a black trash bag, another is kneeling and putting something into a black trash bag, and a third person is sitting on the ground. There are some small items of litter on the ground. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a white horizontal bar. On the left side of this bar, it says 'You can register at www.nationalspringclean.org'. On the right side of the bar, there is the National Spring Clean logo, which consists of a green circular icon with a white 'i' inside, followed by the text 'NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN' in blue and green. Below the logo, there is a small text 'An Taisce'.

Green-Schools Team Meeting

The Environmental Awareness Officers from local authorities across Ireland recently attended a meeting organised by the Green-Schools Team to strengthen our partnership and plan for the year ahead. The session was a valuable opportunity to learn about new and exciting Green-Schools campaigns and receive important updates, including information on renewal visits, which are currently underway in schools renewing their Green Flag status this year.



Green-Schools Irish language handbooks

We are delighted to share that Green-Schools have launched their Irish language handbooks, and it's wonderful to see them continuing to grow and strengthen the Irish language resources and services they provide to our schools. To find out more, click [here](#).



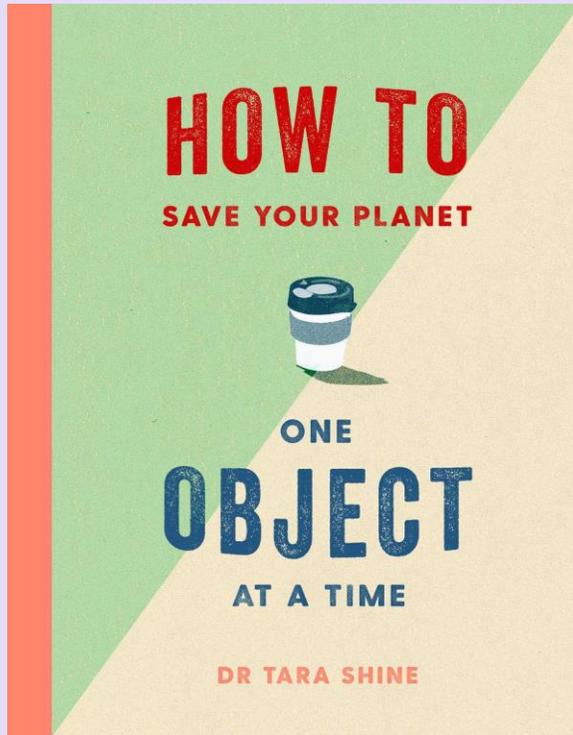
Green-Schools Marine Spatial Planning Competition Winners

Massive congratulations to the following winners of the Green-Schools Marine Spatial Planning Competition, who recently attended the awards ceremony. Emily Foley, National Junior Primary winner, 1st class, Donabate Portrane ETNS; and Rozalia Grabe, Senior Primary Regional Winner, 3rd class, at Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe, Swords. We were impressed with the outstanding quality of their artwork in the poster competition and the important messages they conveyed under this year's theme 'Every Sea Tells a Story'. Click [here](#) to read more.



Climate Action Team Recommendation

With World Book Day taking place on the 5th of March, why not include a climate action book on your reading list? Fingal Libraries have a huge suite of resources in hard copies, e-readers, audio, documentaries, etc. Check what your local library has in stock. For March, the Climate Action Team are recommending How to Save Your Planet One Object at a Time by Dr Tara Shine.



Home Energy Saving Kits - Feedback Requested

Home Energy Saving kits are available and free to borrow across all libraries in Fingal. These kits include a thermal leak detector, a plug-in energy monitor, a radiator key, a temperature and humidity meter, and a fridge/freezer thermometer. To anyone who has used the kits to date, we would love to hear your feedback. Please take a minute to complete the quick survey [here](#).

BELIEVE Balbriggan Digital Detox: Reducing Digital Pollution and Promoting Healthier Digital Habits

An exciting new community initiative — The BELIEVE Balbriggan Digital Detox — was launched on Safer Internet Day 2026 at Balbriggan Library. The initiative invites the entire community to take small, intentional steps toward healthier digital routines and stronger offline connections.

The BELIEVE Balbriggan Digital Detox now invites residents, families, schools, local groups, and workplaces across the town to join the movement by logging an hour activity to do a physical activity, read a book, learn something new, reconnect with their surroundings, strengthen community ties, or even volunteer.

Further updates on the BELIEVE Balbriggan Digital Detox are available at www.believelbalbriggan.ie.



Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy Announced

On the 24th of February, the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy was launched by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, which includes a Pilot National Repair Voucher Scheme to be rolled out by 2027. This scheme will reduce repair costs, increase the perceived value of used devices and drive society-wide support for repair. For more information on this strategy, including all the benefits it will bring to the circular economy, click [here](#).

Climate Toolkit 4 Business - Local Enterprise Week

With Local Enterprise Week 2026 underway in Fingal, the Climate Action Team is reminding local enterprise owners to visit the Climate Toolkit for guidance on how to engage in more sustainable business practices. To see the full toolkit, click [here](#).



Eco-tips for March

Spring Clean Tips

Ensure your spring cleaning practices are as sustainable as possible this year by following these tips. For a full guide on how to create your own homemade cleaning products, please click [here](#).



Free Recycled Paint: For Community Spaces and Schools

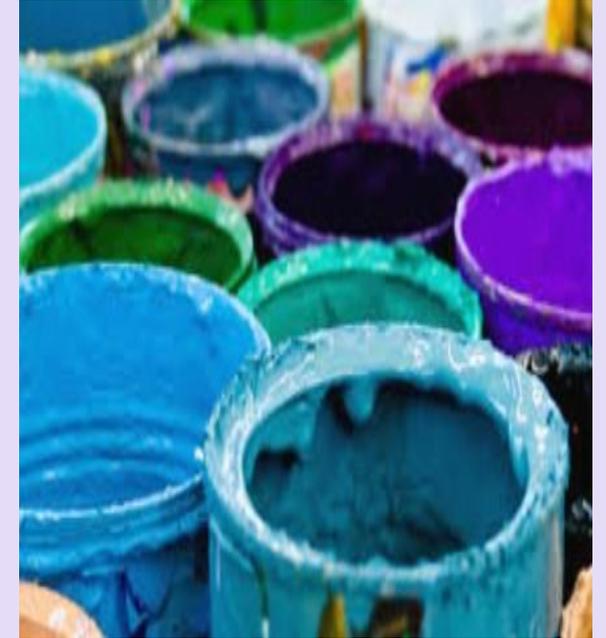
Recycled paint is available for use by community groups in community spaces and for schools. Typically, the available colours are magnolia and grey, but other colours may be available from time to time. Be sure to specify whether you need interior or exterior paint. This paint is sourced from the Fingal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

Borrow a Free Clothes Swap Kit

Fingal County Council, in partnership with Change Clothes, offers free clothes swap kits to community groups, sports clubs and schools. To learn more, read the kit borrowing instructions [here](#).



Circular Economy Hack: 'Make a Hooded Jumper Scarf'

Click on the My Waste video tutorial [here](#) to find out how to make a hooded jumper scarf. This is quick, straightforward, and a great way to upcycle an unused jumper.



Zero-Waste Resources

If spring cleaning is on your mind and you are hoping to clear out unused clothes and furniture, consider repairing, upcycling, or recycling them. Visit the [Repair Directory](#) to see if what you have can be fixed before it is thrown away. See [circular.ie](#) for a more comprehensive list of zero-waste tips and services.

Greener Living Guidance

Visit the [My Waste website](http://www.mywaste.ie) to see their full list of greener living resources.



Waste Reminders

Please be mindful of disposing of extra packaging and batteries correctly. Not sure what goes in what bin? Visit the [My Waste website](http://www.mywaste.ie).

Improve how you manage your workplace waste by using the bin guidance resources available [here](#).

Please recycle your bottles at your nearest bring banks. If you are at work, consider having a designated "landing area" for cans and bottles which can be used in the deposit-return machines.



Seasonal Food Calendar

If meal planning is on your agenda each week, get to know what foods are in season – they are often more affordable and come with fewer "food miles".

Plan your meals and try to shop seasonally and locally. Please see the [Stop Food Waste Seasonal Calendar](#) for guidance.

March

Seasonal Food Calendar



Brussels Sprouts



Cabbage



Carrots



Cauliflower



Celeriac



Cooking Apples



Kale



Leeks



Mushrooms



Onions



Parsnips



Potatoes



Purple Broccoli



Round Lettuce



Spinach

Environmental Dates

The 1st of March is National Stop Food Waste Day. This year it's all about bread. Find some tips on how to make the most of yours [here](#).

The 18th of March is Global Recycling Day. See the [Repak website](#) for reminders on how to recycle correctly.



Click [here](#) to find all Environmental Awareness news and resources.

Click [here](#) to see what Fingal County Council is doing to address climate change.

Get in touch with us:

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