

# Welcome to the Environmental Awareness and Climate Action Newsletter

## What to expect from this issue:

- Updates from our team
- Eco-tips for April
- Waste reduction resources



## Young Filmmakers across Fingal Take on Climate Action Through Film

Secondary school students across Fingal are using creativity and storytelling to explore environmental issues as part of the Rubbish Film Festival, an all-Ireland initiative that challenges young people to respond to the climate crisis through short films. A screening and awards ceremony featuring entries from all four Dublin local authorities took place at the Lighthouse Cinema on 19th March. Speaking about the films, Fingal's Environmental Awareness Officer Jennifer Muscheidt said:

*"The creativity and commitment shown by these young filmmakers is truly inspiring. Through the Rubbish Film Festival, they have transformed environmental challenges into powerful stories that resonate with all of us. Their work not only highlights the importance of responsible waste management but also encourages our community to take meaningful steps toward a cleaner, more sustainable Fingal."*

The regional winners for Fingal are:

- Blakestown Community School – Best Poster
- Edmund Rice College – Runner-Up Film
- St. Mary's Secondary School, Baldoyle – Best Film

These wonderful films are available to view [here](#).



## 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.

Closing Date: Friday 17th April 2026, at 4:30pm.

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

## Dublin Climate Action Week 2026

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 on the 20th of April, click [here](#).



## National Spring Clean Month

National Spring Clean has been operated by An Taisce since 1999 and is growing year by year. This initiative, taking place in April, brings communities together and encourages them to conduct clean-ups and increase awareness of litter. Interested in organising your own spring clean? Find out more about the programme and register your interest [here](#).



## Our Energy Our Future

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment has launched its new Our Energy Our Future campaign outlining the crucial role of renewables in achieving energy security and reaching Ireland's renewable targets. The campaign webpage features a range of helpful resources, which can be accessed [here](#).



**WE'RE  
TAKING  
CLIMATE  
ACTION**

## Housewarming Podcast

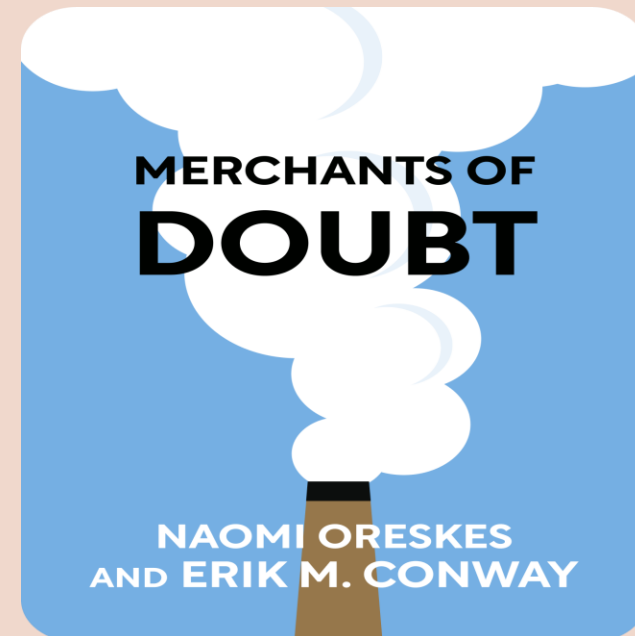
Housewarming is a podcast series brought to you by SEAI, and is all about helping you to make your home a warmer, more energy efficient, and beautiful place to live.

All episodes are available online [here](#).



## Climate Action Team Recommendation

Why not include a climate action book on your reading list this month? 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 April, the Climate Action Team are recommending Merchants of Doubt by Dr Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway.



## Join us for the Believe Balbriggan Expo

The Believe Balbriggan Expo will be taking place in Flemington Community Centre on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, highlighting Balbriggan's talent, services, and innovation while strengthening connections, pride, and participation across the town. This event is brought to you by Balbriggan's Community Council, the Residents' Association Network and the AISHA AED Initiative, kindly supported by the Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce.

The Climate Action Team will be in attendance to discuss any queries you might have on the day. Come along and see the opportunities Balbriggan has to offer. Details on the event can be found [here](#).



## Toy Libraries

Families are invited to take part in a fun and eco-friendly Swap & Play event hosted by Fingal County Council in partnership with The Toy Library. The event will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April at Skerries Library from 12-2pm, providing children and families with the opportunity to swap pre-loved toys, engage in play, and learn about sustainability. To see upcoming toy library events and details on how to register for free, keep an eye on their [online map](#).



## Fingal Climate Stories Map

Interested in seeing how we are progressing with our Climate Action Plan targets? The Fingal Climate Stories Map is live and shows you the various projects undertaken across the County Council. One initiative includes the provision of [bleeper bikes](#) throughout Fingal. To continue promoting the use of active travel, the Fingal eBike Connect Scheme, in partnership with Bleeper Bike, now subsidises the cost of e-bike rentals for residents in suburban and rural areas of the county. Successful applicants are provided with exclusive access to an eBike for three months at the significantly reduced price of €20 per month instead of the usual €80.

Residents from Donabate, Portrane and Skerries can apply now to take part by contacting [customercare@bleeper.active.com](mailto:customercare@bleeper.active.com) for more details.



### Bike Sharing Scheme

Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel and Sports Department

Fingal County Council is working to make Active Travel a safe, accessible and easy choice for everyone. As part of this mission, we operate bike sharing schemes for the County. Members of the public can sign up for Bleeper and unlock a bike or e-bike to use whenever they need one.

These bikes are ideal for daily trips to work, training or the shops as well as leisure use. So whether you're thinking about a cycle to the seaside or a pedal to the park you should sign up today and get pedaling!

## **New report shows €2.99 billion economic benefit from walking and cycling**

Active Travel has delivered €2.99 billion in annual economic benefit across walking, wheeling and cycling initiatives in metropolitan areas which will take up to 660,000 cars off the road each day. The full report on the 2025 walking and cycling study can be found [here](#).



## **Climate and Sustainability focus for new Springboard+ Courses**

Thousands of places in Springboard+ courses are now open for applications, with opportunities available in areas such as sustainability, offshore wind energy, circular economy and climate-related enterprise.

Springboard+ is managed by the Higher Education Authority and provides free and subsidised upskilling and reskilling higher education opportunities. To learn more click [here](#).



## **Children encouraged to get involved as 2026 Pollinator Project applications open**

March saw the launch of this year's Pollinator Project, delivered by Biodiversity in Schools in partnership with SIRO Ireland. This project offers free pollinator toolkits, classroom resources and educational workshops to pre-schools, primary and secondary schools and homeschooling groups. Applications are open until the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. Click [here](#) to get involved.



## Trash EEE-Ik makes an impact during St. Patrick's Festival

The European Recycling Platform (ERP) unveiled the 'Trash EEE-Ik' (EEE: Electrical and Electronic Equipment) installation during the St Patrick's Festival celebrations in Dublin City this month. This piece, made purely from e-waste, highlights the urgent need for Irish households to recycle their invisible electrical items. The most commonly misdisposed EEE at this time of year includes:

Vapes (13%)

Audio accessories (9%)

Smart home devices (33%)

Electric blankets (33%)

St Patrick's light-up hats and accessories (6%)

Remember that these items can all be properly disposed of at Fingal County Council's [Estuary Recycling Centre](#), and [Coolmine Recycling Centre](#).

Well done to those already collecting this type of waste in aid of the [Batteries for Barretstown](#) school challenge. Your contributions will make a difference not only to Barretstown but to the environment.



## Creative Climate Ireland Fund

A new €6.5 million Creative Climate Action Fund has been launched to support large-scale creative, cultural and artistic initiatives that help communities engage with climate change and empower citizens to make meaningful behavioural change. This Fund is seeking proposals that respond creatively to key national climate priorities, and is aimed at organisations with experience in delivering public engagement projects at scale. Applications will close on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2026. For more information, visit the Creative Ireland website [here](#).



## Eco-Easter Tips

Did you know that cardboard boxes, plastic moulds, chocolate trays, clean tin foil and egg boxes can all be recycled once they are clean, dry and loose? Reduce your waste this Easter by following these eco-tips.



## 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](mailto: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](#).

## Zero-Waste Resources

April may be National Spring Clean month, but before you discard something you will only end up replacing, consider repairing, upcycling, or recycling it. Visit the [Repair Directory](#) to see if what you have can be fixed before it is thrown away. See [circular.ie](http://circular.ie) for a more comprehensive list of zero-waste tips and services.



## April Circular Economy Hack: Create Your Own Nesting Box

With nesting season upon us, April could be a nice time to create a DIY nesting box that will make your gardens and school grounds more inviting to birds. See this [tutorial by the Rediscovery Centre](#) for a step-by-step guide on how to design your own nesting box.



## Greener Living Guidance

Visit the [My Waste website](#) to see their full list of greener living resources.

## Waste Reminders

Improve how you manage your school and 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 designating a "landing area" for cans and bottles that 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.

## Environmental Dates





The 22<sup>nd</sup> of April is Earth Day. See the [Earth Day website](#) to find a library of resources on how to host or register your events for this day.



**STOP** FoodWaste.ie 

# April

## Seasonal Food Calendar

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

 = FROM STORAGE

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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**Comhairle Contae**  
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