

Welcome to the Environmental Awareness and Climate Action Newsletter

What to expect from this issue:

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

National Food Waste Recycling Week Saturday 30th May – 7th June

Recycling food waste is an important issue. When food is wasted, it can end up in landfill where it produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Combined with the resources used to produce and transport food, wasting it can have significant environmental impacts. Recycling food waste helps divert this valuable resource away from landfill and allows it to be transformed into renewable energy and fertilisers for use in horticulture and agriculture across Ireland. Every tonne of food waste recycled can prevent approximately half a tonne of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

For tips on how to reduce food waste [here](#) and for a handy pocket guide [here](#).

Bord Bia have a seasonal food calendar that can be found [here](#) along with a handy seasonal cookbook too.



Dublin Climate Action Week 2026

Dublin Climate Action Week ran from the 11th to the 17th of May, and Fingal's Climate Action Team coordinated a varied programme of nearly 30 events, which garnered great engagement from the local community. We would like to thank our colleagues in the other departments who supported our work, as well as the Fingal Community Groups, the suppliers and event facilitators, without whom this week would not have been possible.



Small Changes, Big Difference – Climate Action Animation Series

Fingal County Council Climate Action invites residents and communities to take part in climate action through a new series of short animated videos. This six-part series shows how simple, everyday actions can make a real difference at home, in your community, and across Fingal. These videos can be accessed [here](#).



Green-Schools Awards 2026

We are delighted to announce that 23 schools across Fingal have been awarded their Green Flag under the Green-Schools programme. This fantastic achievement is a testament to the dedication, collaboration and hard work of the entire school community. We sincerely thank the Green-Schools Committees and Coordinators, along with students, teachers, principals, caretaking staff, and parents, for making this success possible.

The Green-Schools Awards Ceremony, held at the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk on the 20th May, was a wonderful occasion to celebrate these achievements. Schools were recognised across a range of themes, including Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Marine Environment, Global Citizenship and Green-Schools Projects—highlighting the breadth of environmental action taking place in our schools.

The schools are: Coolmine Community School, Corduff National School, Ériu Community College, Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe, Gaelscoil na Mara, Gaelscoil Ros Eo, Hartstown Community School, Hedgestown National School, EVE Estuary Training Centre, Loreto College, Loreto Secondary School, Mary Queen of Ireland National School, Scoil Mhuire Mount Sackville, St Laurence's National School, St. Francis Xavier Senior National School, St. Helen's Junior National School, St. Helen's Senior National School, St. Michael's Holy Angels, St. Molaga's Senior National School, St. Oliver Plunkett National School, St. Patrick's Junior National School, St. Brigid's National School, Swords Community College

Continues

Additional awards

Huge [congratulations](#) to the Eve Estuary Hub on winning a Regional Energy School of the Year Award. Captain Zero and the team delivered an inspiring and engaging presentation, showcasing all the fantastic work they've accomplished around this theme. Want to learn more about their journey and achievements? Be sure to check out their blog post [here](#) for the full story.



Minister O'Brien announces recipients of €1.3m for successful community climate projects in Fingal.

The list of approved projects in the second phase of Strand 1 funding under the Community Climate Action Programme has been announced by Minister Darragh O' Brien from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. 76 applications were received by Fingal County Council last December under five main themes:

- Community Energy
- Travel
- Food and Waste
- Shopping and Recycling
- Local Environmental and Climate Action



The Minister also topped up the funding by €2.6m, as it was so oversubscribed nationally. In Fingal, 55 applications have been allocated funding and will deliver projects in the coming 16-month period, which will include solar PV on community buildings; planting of biodiversity and pollinator areas; swap-shop and fashion upcycling kits; community gardening; recycling bins and improved waste segregation; water fountains for clubs; rainwater harvesting; bike lockers and parking; solar PVs, replacement windows and doors; and insulation of community buildings.

Continues

Phase 1 2024-2026 saw 160 climate projects delivered in Fingal, which reduced emissions in the community setting. We are excited to see these projects begin in the near future with the support of this fund and of the Community Climate Action Officer. [Congratulations](#) and well done to all the groups that had projects approved. Full details on funding allocations for Phase 2 (2026-2027) can be found on the Department's website [here](#) (Fingal County Council allocation is listed on page 18 of the document). More information about the Community Climate Action Programme in Fingal can be found [here](#).

Young Reporters for the Environment Competition

[Congratulations](#) to Aoife Smyth of St. Joseph's College Rush who has been named the national winner of the Senior Photojournalism category in the prestigious **Young Reporters for the Environment** (YRE) competition. Her winning entry, "The Plastic Cycle: Investigating Microplastic Pollution in our Schools and Environment", provides a critical investigation into the presence of microplastics within school lunches and the broader environment, highlighting a hidden but urgent ecological challenge. You can watch her interview on News2Day [here](#). For more information on the YRE programme and to register interest for 2026/27 click [here](#).



Young Reporters
for the environment

#andshecycles

Well done to St. Joseph's, Rush, who took part in this year's #andshecycles campaign and were presented with their awards at a recent ceremony in Portlaoise. #andshecycles is a Green-Schools Travel initiative that provides a dedicated platform for teenage girls to explore, understand, and address the barriers that can prevent them from cycling to school. The campaign empowers participants to build confidence, share their experiences, and promote more inclusive, active travel within their communities. The Ambassadors from St. Joseph's used student feedback to shape their campaign, discovering that many were more likely to cycle with a friend. In response, they organised a Cycling Buddy event, helping students build confidence and cycle together in a fun and supportive way.

For more information on this excellent programme click [here](#) and to complete the expression of interest form click [here](#).



One Small Action for Nature – Fingal Schools Challenge Winners

It was a joy to get a snapshot of the amazing work happening in schools around the county. From plant identification and bug hotel building to vegetable and wildflower planting, water quality testing, and litter picks, it was great to see a lovely variety of activities. The submissions showed plenty of sunny days, smiling faces, and hands-on learning, and we hope everyone had as much fun taking part as we did reviewing the entries. The winners, in some cases multiple classes, of the Busca Dúlra Biodiversity Kits are:

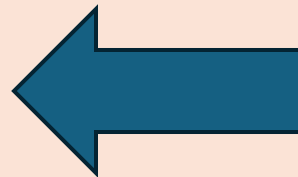
Ardgillan College,
Balbriggan ETNS,
Blakestown Community School,
Bracken ETNS,
Donabate Portrane ETNS,
Hartstown Community School,
Holywell ETNS,
Loughshinny NS,
Luttrellstown Community College,
Powerstown ETNS,
River Valley CNS,
Scoil Phádraic Cailíní,
St. Francis Xavier SNS,
St. Oliver Plunkett NS,
St. Sylvester's Infant School.

For more details see [here](#).



Our Fingal Saves One Million Plastic Bottles

In May, Fingal County Council became the first local authority in Ireland to save one million plastic bottles from landfill through the use of public Ecofill refill stations. There are now 31 locations across the county, with the most frequently used stations averaging savings of more than 6,000 plastic bottles each. The demand for these stations demonstrates the commitment of Fingal County Council residents in reducing their waste and protecting their local environment.



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 May, the Climate Action Team are recommending *John Gibbons' The Lie of the Land*.

Fingal Climate Stories Map

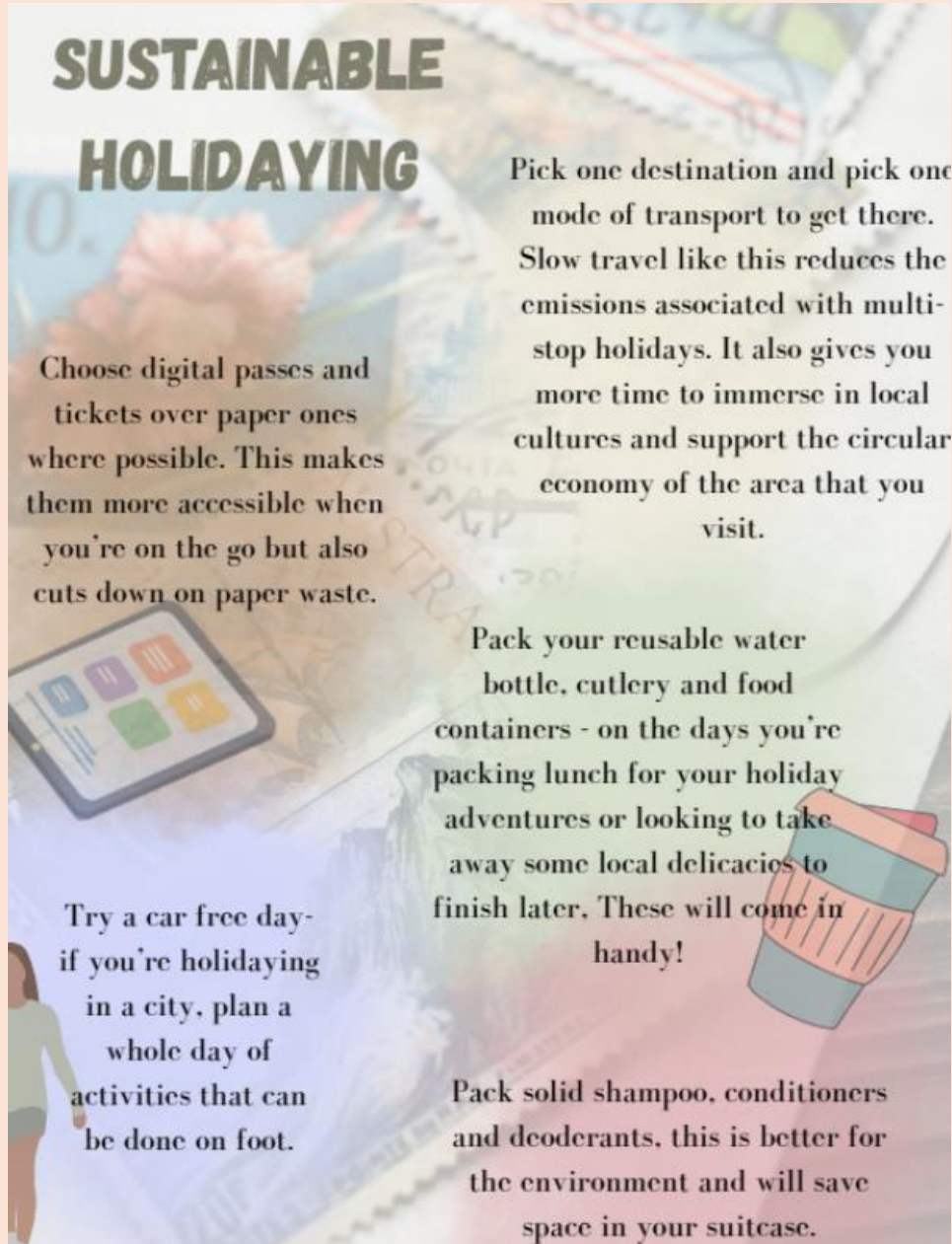
Interested in seeing how we are progressing with our Climate Action Plan targets? The Fingal Climate Stories Map is live and shows you the various projects undertaken across the County Council that contribute to climate action.

Since 2020, Fingal Arts and artist Gareth Kennefy have been developing the 'Seanchaí Micro Forest', an immersive and functional artwork on the grounds of Blakestown Community School. A book was launched in April 2026 documenting the journey of this project, highlighting the integral part the students of the school have played in nurturing it year by year. Read more about this project, as well as many others across the departments of Fingal County Council by clicking [here](#).



Eco-tips for June

Summer is upon us and many of us are planning on taking a holiday soon. Don't let your travel experience be a wasteful one by following the below guidance.



SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAYING

Choose digital passes and tickets over paper ones where possible. This makes them more accessible when you're on the go but also cuts down on paper waste.

Pick one destination and pick one mode of transport to get there. Slow travel like this reduces the emissions associated with multi-stop holidays. It also gives you more time to immerse in local cultures and support the circular economy of the area that you visit.

Pack your reusable water bottle, cutlery and food containers - on the days you're packing lunch for your holiday adventures or looking to take away some local delicacies to finish later, These will come in handy!

Try a car free day - if you're holidaying in a city, plan a whole day of activities that can be done on foot.

Pack solid shampoo, conditioners and deoderants, this is better for the environment and will save space in your suitcase.

June Circular Economy Hack:

With warmer and longer days in our sights, we will be looking forward to spending more time out in our gardens. If you're inspired to redesign yours, don't let it be in a wasteful way. Click [here](#) for ideas on how everyday items can easily be transformed in garden furniture and planters.



Zero-Waste Resources

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.

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 paint@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](#).

Greener Living Guidance

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



Free remixed paint
available for local
community spaces

In partnership with the Rediscovery Centre, Fingal County Council can supply high quality water-based remixed paint to your organisation or group, free of charge

email:
paint@rediscoverycentre.ie
with what you plan to paint, the square metre area to be painted & your preferred colours

PROUD MEMBER OF THE
PAINT REUSE NETWORK

REDISCOVERY CENTRE
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

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](#).

Improve how you manage your school or 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.

Vapes and e-cigarette devices - Did You Know?

Disposable vapes are electronic waste, not general waste. When placed in bins, their lithium batteries can cause fires and release harmful materials into the environment.

You can recycle your vape properly by:



















- Using an ERP battery recycling box
- Returning it to a retailer
- Using a WEEE recycling point or civic amenity site

For more information click [here](#).

What's in Season?

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. Visit the [Bord Bia website](#) to see what's in season now.

Coming in or out of season							
							
Courgette	Peas	Runner Beans	Celery	Carrot	Blackcurrants	Gooseberries	Raspberry
In season							
							
Pak Choi	Radish	Scallions	French Beans	Broad Beans	Beetroot	Aubergine	Mushrooms
From Storage							
							
Rooster Potatoes	Bramley Apples						

Environmental Dates

World Environment Day takes place on the 5th of June. On this day, we ask the global population to ditch single-use plastic, test their natural world knowledge and sign environmental petitions. To learn more about how this day is celebrated, click [here](#).



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:

environment.education@fingal.ie / climateaction@fingal.ie