

Welcome to the July Edition of the Fingal County Council Environmental Awareness and Climate Action Newsletter

What to expect from this issue:

- Updates from our team
- Zero-waste hacks
- Waste reduction resources

LEAF Applications Now Open

Community and voluntary groups are at the heart of Fingal's biodiversity and environmental success, with dedicated volunteers working year-round to enhance their local areas. To help support the vital role these groups play, community organisations can now apply for funding through the IPB Insurance & Local Authorities Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF), which provides €100k to deliver projects in their areas.

The fund is open to Tidy Towns groups, community councils and development groups; residents' associations; community gardens, scouts and youth clubs, gardening groups; community gardens and allotments; men's sheds; women's sheds; and community centres as the lead partner, and we are encouraging these groups to partner up with local schools, sports clubs, etc. to submit an application. To read more on eligibility, the application process and qualifying projects, click [here](#).



LEAF

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

Riailtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

100 YEARS
1922 2022
lipb

Is your group:

- Located in Fingal? ✓
- A member of the Public Participation Network? ✓
- Involved in regular community enhancement projects? ✓

You may be eligible for the Local Environment Action Fund, which can support projects that relate to any of the following themes:

- Climate Resilience
- Urban Greening/ Tree Planting
- Waste Reduction/ Recycling
- Water Conservation
- Public Education Campaigns
- Renewable Energy

Applications are open until Friday 17th of July.

To learn more about eligibility and how to apply, scan the QR code above or visit:
fingal.ie/local-environment-action-fund-leaf

The poster features the LEAF logo, logos for Fingal County Council, Local Government Ireland, and the 100 Years 1922-2022 lipb logo. It includes a QR code and a small image of hands holding a seedling. An illustration of a person planting a tree is in the bottom right corner.

Anti-gum litter awareness event with the Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT)

We will be hosting an anti-gum litter awareness event at Flavours of Fingal on Saturday 4th July, led by the GLT. The campaign focuses on behavioural change and fostering social responsibility around litter disposal. The GLT team will engage with members of the public in interactive and light-hearted ways to raise awareness about gum litter and the importance of responsible disposal.



Toy Upcycling Workshop with Scéal

Join Fingal County Council and Scéal in Balbriggan Library from 11 am - 1 pm on Tuesday 14th July for this hands-on, zero-waste event for children. The Toy Upcycling Workshop is a playful, hands-on clinic where children and their parents bring much-loved, broken, or forgotten toys and give them a new lease of life. Together, we will “fix” toys where possible or reimagine them into new creations with a fresh story to tell. The emphasis is on creativity, care and imagination – like Sid from Toy Story, but kind: no destruction, just curious, inventive fun!

Across the session, artists will guide families through simple techniques such as hand sewing, basic repairs and playful reconstruction using a wide range of recycled materials.

This workshop is suitable for children aged 4-12 along with their parents. This event is free to attend but booking is essential. Visit the Eventbrite page to book your spot [here](#).



Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is a global movement that encourages people to reduce their use of single-use plastics and find more sustainable alternatives. Even small, everyday changes can make a big difference. You can start by carrying a reusable water bottle and coffee cup, bringing cloth bags when shopping, and choosing products with minimal or no plastic packaging. At home, switching to bar soap instead of bottled body wash, using refill stations for cleaning products, and storing food in glass or metal containers can cut down on waste. Participating in local clean-up events or simply picking up litter during a walk also helps keep plastic out of the environment. To learn more, click [here](#).



Kitchen Caddy Giveaway

To follow on from National Food Waste Recycling week in June we will be handing out complimentary Kitchen Caddies and compostable bin bag liners at our Environment and Climate Action stand in the Fingal Village Tent at Flavours of Fingal. Come find us to receive yours, while stocks last.

Environmental Awareness Officer Attends St. Mologa's Flag-Raising Ceremony

Our Environmental Awareness Officer recently attended St. Mologa's fantastic Green-Schools flag-raising ceremony and action day. The event featured a wonderful performance by the school choir, accompanied by the ukulele club, followed by a tour of the grounds led by the Green-Schools Committee.

Students proudly showcased their environmental initiatives, including a newly created dead hedge, a thriving pond with baby frogs, a flourishing vegetable garden, and an impressive composting and wormery project. The day highlighted the school's commitment to biodiversity and sustainability, with committee members especially excited to enjoy potato wedges made from their own home-grown harvest for lunch. A truly inspiring celebration of environmental action and achievement.

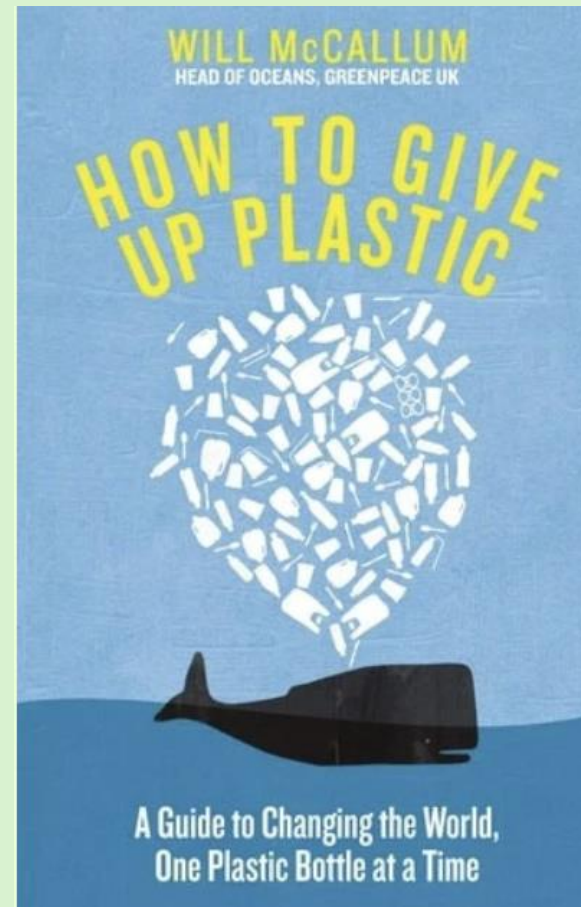


Replay Instruments Project

Fingal County Council's Replay Instruments Project encourages people to donate unused musical instruments at recycling centres in Coolmine and Estuary, Swords. Donated items are cleaned, repaired, and distributed to schools and community groups. Most instruments and accessories are accepted, except pianos and drum kits. The project supports the circular economy by reducing waste and extending the life of resources. To find out more click [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 Plastic Free July, the Climate Action Team are recommending *Will McCallum's How to Give Up Plastic*.

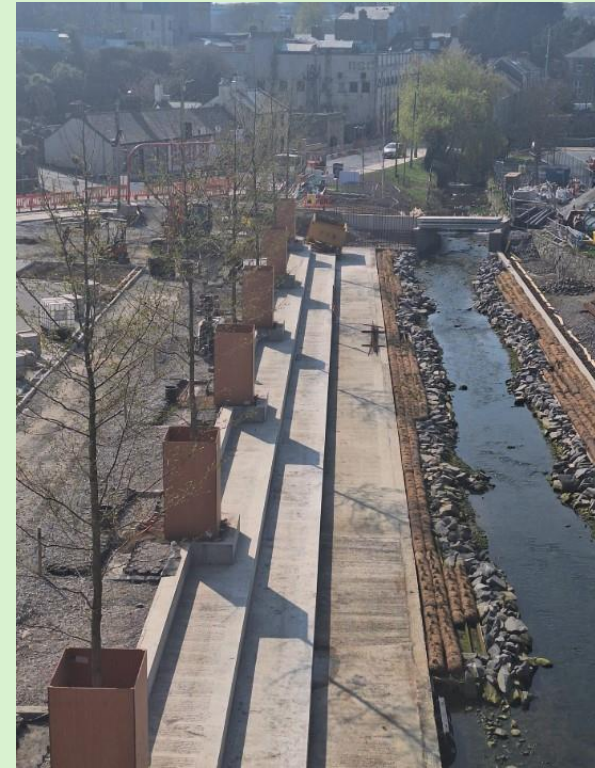


Fingal Climate Stories Map

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.

Did you know Fingal County Council is responsible for maintaining the drainage systems that manage stormwater and surface water runoff? Given the likelihood of more extreme rainfall/flooding events and the increased pressure this will put on the existing network, it is critical to ensure that the drainage systems will continue to operate as required. Tree pits are an example of a sustainable urban drainage system that provides a solution for this. If you look for them, you will see they are located in many places across Fingal.

Read more about this project, as well as many others across the departments of Fingal County Council, by clicking [here](#).



Progress in the Climate Action Plan- Reuseable Cup Initiative at Malahide Concerts 2026

Fingal County Council, for the 2nd year running and working alongside partners MCD and Diageo, has eliminated single-use cups at the Malahide Concerts and introduced a very successful reusable cup scheme for the sale of alcoholic beverages at all 8 concerts on a Deposit/Return basis. In 2025, approximately 1/4million single use cups were saved from landfill/incineration as a result of this initiative in Malahide. Fingal is committed to rolling this out at events across Fingal on a phased basis. To see the other ways we are progressing in delivering our Climate Action Plan, see the annual report [here](#).



Public consultation on the next update to the National Climate Action Plan – Climate Priorities

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment has launched a public consultation (open until 17 August 2026) to inform the next update of Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The update will focus on delivering high-impact, practical measures across key sectors such as electricity, transport, agriculture and buildings, as Ireland enters the 2026–2030 carbon budget period and works toward its 2050 climate neutrality target. While emissions projections have improved, further action is needed to stay on track, and the consultation invites individuals, communities and stakeholders to share views on what is working and what more can be done to accelerate progress and overcome barriers to climate action. To find out more and to make a submission, click [here](#).

EPA publishes new Greenhouse Gas Emissions report

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its greenhouse gas emissions projections for the period 2025-2055. EPA analysis shows that Ireland's planned climate policies and measures could deliver reductions of up to 25% of emissions by 2030, short of the 51% committed to nationally. Assessment of the latest information provided by governmental bodies and sector representatives indicates that the gap to target is widening in some sectors of the economy, while narrowing in others. You can read the report [here](#).

Met Éireann and UCC launch new resources for teaching climate change in schools

Chasing the Curlew's Call / Ar Lorg Ghlao an Chrotaigh was developed by UCC using Met Éireann climate science and visual storytelling to highlight real-world impacts of climate change. It tells the story of young Lou and her grandfather as they search for the Eurasian curlew, an endangered species of bird whose survival is impacted by climate change. Officially launched at an event in UCC last week, the novel is accompanied by a suite of ready-to-use teacher packs containing lesson plans, classroom activities, discussion prompts and evaluation surveys designed to help students engage with climate science through storytelling. To view these resources, click [here](#).



SEAI urges homeowners to start their home energy upgrade journey over the summer months

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is encouraging homeowners to upgrade their homes to make them more comfortable, healthier and less costly to run. This is timely advice as households look for ways to address higher energy costs ahead of the next heating season. With an expanded range of grant supports now available, SEAI is advising homeowners that early research and planning can help them make better decisions, maximise the supports available to them, and ensure upgrades are completed before peak winter demand. Most importantly, they improve comfort and reduce energy bills sooner. SEAI is encouraging homeowners not to wait until the colder months to consider upgrades, noting that planning, grant applications and contractor availability can take time. By starting now, homeowners can:

- Take advantage of current grant supports
- Spread the cost and planning of works over time
- Ensure upgrades are completed before peak winter demand
- Improve comfort and reduce energy bills sooner

To find out information about home energy grants, click [here](#).

July Circular Economy Hack: turn your scrap yarn into a placemat!

Are you a knitter? Crocheter? Or just have lots of scrap wool lying around? This [video](#) might inspire you to use them up in a creative, zero- waste way.



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.

Waste Reminders

- Please be mindful of disposing of extra packaging and batteries correctly. Not sure what goes in what bin? Visit the My Waste [bin system guidance page](#).
- Understand how to reduce waste in your sports club this summer by implementing the actions in the My Waste Sports Toolkit.

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:

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

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.



Environmental Dates

World Nature Conservation Day takes place on the 28th of July. Why not use this day to plan a conservation trip. You can visit the [Irish Wildlife Trust](#) website for inspiration.



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

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

To unsubscribe from this newsletter or to get in touch with us contact:

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