

Welcome to the September 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

Second-Hand September - Give Clothes a Second Life

Second-Hand September is a global movement, initiated by Oxfam, encouraging people to say no to new clothes for 30 days and instead buy second-hand, swap, or upcycle items, so why not join the growing movement to reduce textile waste this September? Whether it's swapping, borrowing, repairing or buying pre-loved items, every small action helps cut waste, save resources and reduce carbon emissions.

You can take part by shopping in local charity and vintage stores, organising a swap with friends, or donating unwanted clothes in good condition. Schools can host uniform, costume or clothing swap events, while community groups can bring people together through sustainable fashion workshops and swap days.

To make it easy, Fingal County Council offers a free Clothes Swap Kit, packed with everything you need to run a successful swap event in your school, workplace or community, including a useful guide. It's a simple, fun and affordable way to refresh your wardrobe while helping the environment.

Find out more and book your free Clothes Swap Kit [here](#).

Second-Hand September Guide

Second-Hand September is here and gives us a good chance to reassess the relationship between our wardrobes and the environment. Ireland generates approximately 170,000 tonnes of used textile waste per year, which has increased steadily with the rise of fast-disposable fashion consumption. Follow our Second-Hand September Guide to reduce this kind of waste and give clothes a longer life.

Second-Hand September Guide

1

Support charity shops or retailers on Vinted who sell second-hand items. Many of your finds could be of great quality and are unique, as they can't be found in high street shops or branded marketplaces.



2

Attend local swap shops or organise your own. Swap Shop Kits are available for groups to borrow through Fingal County Council and Change Clothes. Visit [changeclothes.org](https://www.changeclothes.org) to learn more.

3

If you can't find what you're looking for second-hand, you can always try repairing or upcycling something you already have. Consider learning some mending or alteration techniques—your wardrobe will thank you for it.



Losing The Thread – Documentary

Watch this short documentary created by Fingal County Council and the other Dublin Local Authorities with the support of the Regional Waste Offices about the costs of 'fast fashion' and textile waste. Learn about what fast fashion is, where it comes from, how it is marketed to you, the intentions behind it and what happens to it when the pieces are no longer wanted. Watch it [here](#).

Reverse the Trend

This is a national awareness campaign from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment encouraging people to embrace circular fashion by buying less, re-wearing and sharing clothing. The campaign highlights the environmental impacts of overconsumption and promotes simple actions that can help extend the life of our clothes and reduce textile waste. Visit reversethetrend.ie to find out more.



Sustainable Development Goals 2026

SDG Week runs from 21st-27th September this year and is a great opportunity to explore how you can help further global efforts in protecting the climate. Below are some resources that can be of help:

[Green-Schools Global Goals Book Club](#) - a book guide for children who want to learn more about our SDGs and how to be better global citizens. Your school can book a full hard copy set of the books at your local library [here](#).

[CPD Training for Teachers](#) - a course on offer from the Rediscovery Centre which provides training for the teaching of STEM and sustainability.

[Geohive](#) - Ireland's hub for Sustainable Development Goals

[European Sustainable Development Week Portal](#) - the online platform for registering your SDG Week events



Are you a member of a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) or interested in becoming one?

Join us on 18th September at Huntstown Community Centre from 9.30am- 1pm for a Fingal SEC networking day and Energy Master Plan Workshop. Full details can be found below. Tea, coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

If you are not already an active member of an SEC you are still welcome to attend to find out more about the benefits of the SEC network.

The attached document provides more information

Please register here:

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/ee2tgnyp>

To find out more about SECs in Fingal, contact Fingal SEC Mentors, Gerard and Eric:

Eric Dennis – edennis@ksncommunities.ie

Gerard Meaney – gmeaney@ksncommunities.ie

Fingal County & SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities

Networking and Energy Master Plan Clinic

Friday 18th September 2026 9.30am to 1pm
Huntstown Community Centre, Huntstown Way, Dublin D15 EDP8

A gathering of SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) network hosted by Fingal County Council to support its development across the county.

- A space to share ideas, network, and plan with like-minded groups.
- Explore funding and finance opportunities for local energy projects.
- Learn of the benefits arising from an Energy Master Plan.

What's Happening

09.30 – 10.00	Teas /Coffee & networking opportunities	10.40 – 11.00	Energy Master Plan Case Study 1
10.00 – 10.20	Update – Financial Supports & Funding Opportunities	11.00 – 11.20	Energy Master Plan Case Study 2
10.20 – 10.40	What is an Energy Master Plan & how is it created	11.20 – 11.50	Coffee Break & Networking
		11.50 – 12.30	Designing an Energy Master Plan
		12.30 – Close	Light lunch & networking opportunities

Why Come Along?

Whether you're already part of a Sustainable Energy Community or simply curious, you'll discover practical ways to lower energy use, strengthen your community, and protect the environment – all while connecting with other Fingal changemakers.

Questions

Contact your SEC Mentors:
Eric Dennis – edennis@ksncommunities.ie
Gerard Meaney – gmeaney@ksncommunities.ie

[Register Here](#)



LEARN Join the Sustainable Energy Community network.

PLAN Quantify current energy use and identify opportunities.

DO Implement your plan and Take Action.

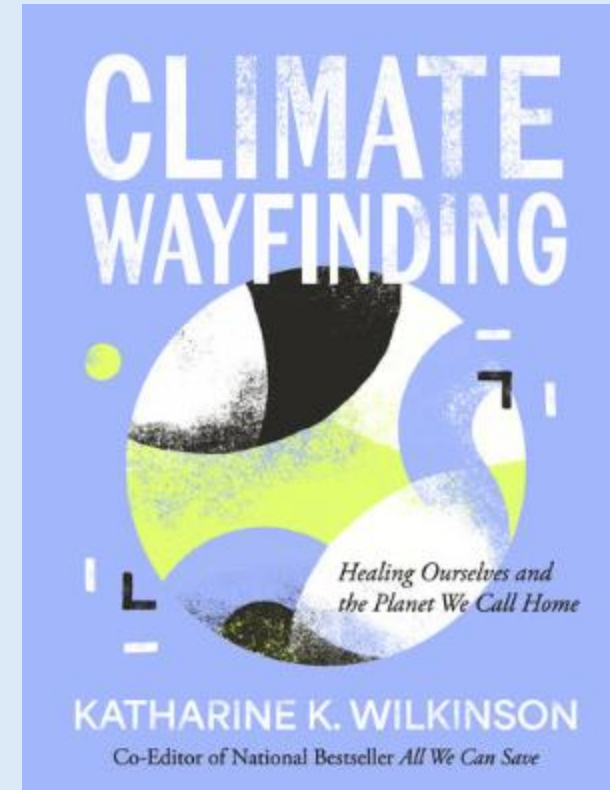
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gail Fingal County Council

HUNTSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

seai Sustainable Energy Communities Programme

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 September, the Climate Action Team is recommending *Climate Wayfinding* by Katharine K. Wilkinson. This title is available in eBook form and can be reserved through BorrowBox. Take a look inside the library catalogues [here](#).



Ireland's Most Powerful Solar Energy Day: 11th August

The solar eclipse which occurred on the 11th of August saw the highest ever level of daily solar electricity generation on the national grid. By 1 pm, solar energy accounted for approximately one third of all electricity used in the day. This discovery follows reports from EirGrid showing that July was a record month for solar energy in Ireland. Commenting on it, Minister O'Brien said, "By reducing demand on the grid during daylight hours, solar energy helps to alleviate demands from other energy sources at key times – this supports a more resilient energy system. Evidence shows that both rooftop and utility-scale solar generation are increasingly displacing gas generation during midday periods, particularly at this time of year when solar is at its strongest. This will ultimately help to lower electricity costs for households and businesses.

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's Arts Office awards a residency in the Loughshinny Boathouse to an artist each? The boathouse provides a fully funded studio for them to research and develop new work in response to the coastal environment of Loughshinny and surrounding areas. This Arts Office initiative includes a studio for a nine-month period to enable an artist to observe and explore Fingal's biodiversity, coastal habitats and climate change impacts. The current artist in residence is Martina O'Brien, whose work focuses on intertidal ecologies, light and the politics of visibility.

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



Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 Implementation

Fingal County Council has successfully installed 18 water drinking stations for the public since 2024. This has saved over one million single use plastic bottles from being used, greatly reducing the likelihood of waste and pollution occurring across the county council. Fingal is committed to rolling this out across public locations to reduce dependencies on single use plastics. To see the other ways we are progressing in delivering our Climate Action Plan, see the annual report [here](#).



World Green Building Week

Green Building Week 2026 takes place from the 7th-11th September. This year's theme, Build It Ready, explores how better buildings help businesses and communities prepare for tomorrow's environmental, social, regulatory and commercial challenges. To explore the seminars, lunch & learns, webinars, and site visits on offer this week, click [here](#).

Back to School

Our Environmental Awareness Officer will be in touch with all schools shortly to advise them of the workshops that Fingal County Council are offering to schools free of charge.

Resources available to schools can be found [here](#).

Guidance for schools

The My Waste website has simple practices and actions to enhance waste prevention, waste segregation and recycling, which can be found [here](#).

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

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.

In season						
						
Marrow	Pak Choi	Spinach	Radish	Scallions	Courgette	Swede

Environmental Dates

World Clean Up Day takes place on the 20th of September. Why not use this day to research Tidy Towns groups that might be suitable for you to join? The full directory of Tidy Towns groups can be found [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.

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

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