Welcome to the August 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

Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Grant

Congratulations to the 45 groups who were awarded funding under the 2026 Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti grant for a myriad of different projects, from litter-cleaning equipment to planting projects. Click here to find out who the successful recipients are.

#2MinuteBeachClean Campaign

The Environmental Awareness Officer, Litter Wardens, and Dog Wardens joined the Clean Coasts team at Velvet Strand, Portmarnock to promote the #2MinuteBeachClean campaign. They engaged with members of the public to highlight how small actions can make a big difference, and to encourage everyone to play their part in protecting our coastlines from litter and preserving the natural environment. To find out more about this campaign click here.

Gum Litter

The Gum Litter Taskforce brought their roadshow to Flavours of Fingal and engaged with the public on creating awareness of gum being litter and engaging in conversation about how to dispose of it responsibly. 92% of people now bin their chewing gum, but nearly 1 in 4 still don't see gum as litter. The key message is "Bin Your Gum When You're Done!”

Food Waste Recycling

We had a wonderful time at Flavours of Fingal engaging with the public, who came to visit the Fingal Village, on the importance of recycling food waste and distributing complimentary kitchen caddies and compostable bin bag liners.

Fingal Climate Stories Map

Interested in seeing how we are taking climate action? The Fingal Climate Stories Map is live and shows you the various projects undertaken across the county council that contribute to climate action.

Our dunes can play an important role in lessening the impacts of these coastal hazards by protecting low-lying coastal areas from flooding. They can also act as a buffer against erosion, forming a reserve of sand, replenished when beach levels are high and released to nourish the foreshore during storm erosion. Sand dunes are fragile ecosystems and are often at risk of damage due to the public walking across them. The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department in Fingal has erected a fence and signage along the dunes in Portmarnock Beach to discourage the public from walking on the dunes and causing further erosion. With rising sea levels, there will be more frequent and more serious flooding of low-lying coastal areas by extreme tides, storm surge and wave effects. There is also potential in many coastal areas for considerable erosion. These coastal protection measures will help in protecting the distinctive dunes of Portmarnock and the communities and areas that live behind them.

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

Progress in the FCC Climate Action Plan 2024-2029- Community Climate Action Programme

Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme has been completed and Phase 2 is underway. A total of 150 climate action projects were completed in community settings by 25 main applicants in Phase 1. These included improvements to buildings, replacement windows and doors, insulation, solar PV, and energy efficiency upgrades, gardens and tree planting, water bottle filler stations, bike parking and storage, bicycle repair stations, rainwater harvesting projects, swap shops, recycling bins and composting. In total, €1.11m was drawn down from the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy for the climate measures. We are looking forward to seeing the projects in Phase 2 come to fruition. To see the other ways we are progressing in delivering our Climate Action Plan, see the annual report here.

July Events – Toy Upcycling with SCÉAL

On the 14th of July, the SCÉAL art collective of Balbriggan facilitated a toy upcycling workshop in Balbriggan Library. This hands-on clinic invited children and their parents to bring old toys and give them a fresh lease of life. Throughout this workshop, we broke apart and found new uses for bits of discarded toys, resulting in some wonderful new creations. We hope to run this event again in the future, so keep an eye on our socials should you wish to attend. To learn more about the work of SCÉAL, click 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 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 2025 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Findings

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its greenhouse gas emissions report for 2025, showing a fourth consecutive year of decreases. GHG emissions fell by 2.2% alone in 2025, with the largest reduction observed in the energy industries. This was due to the large share of energy generation com from renewables (40.6%). These declining figures show that our actions are having an impact; however, GHG emissions still need to decrease by over 10% e year to 2030 to meet our national climate targets.
You can read the report here.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026- 2030

The new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was launched in July by Ireland's Minister for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan TD, and Andrew Muir, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland. This plan aims to provide food and shelter to pollinators in every 200 metres of the Irish landscape. This is important as it will provide nourishment and security to pollinators who are essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems. One-third of Irish wild bees are at risk of extinction, and this plan will endeavour to address this decline through coordinating action across all land types and supporting public engagement. To read more on the plan, click here.

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

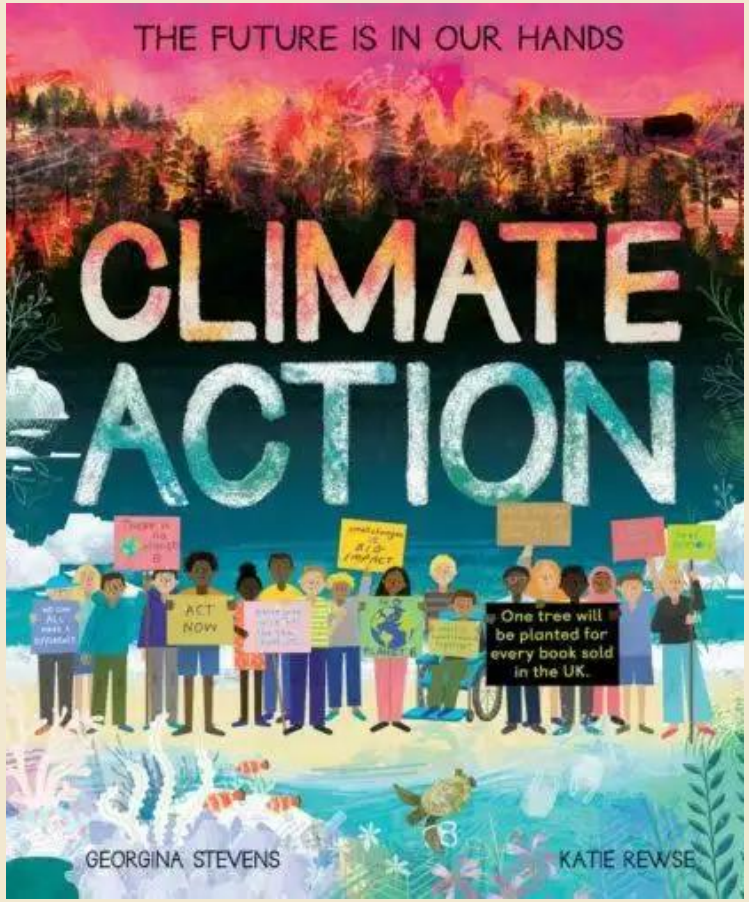
The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is encouraging homeowners to upgrade their homes to make them more comfortable, healthier and less costly to run. This is timely advice as households look for ways to address higher energy costs ahead of the next heating season. With an expanded range 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.

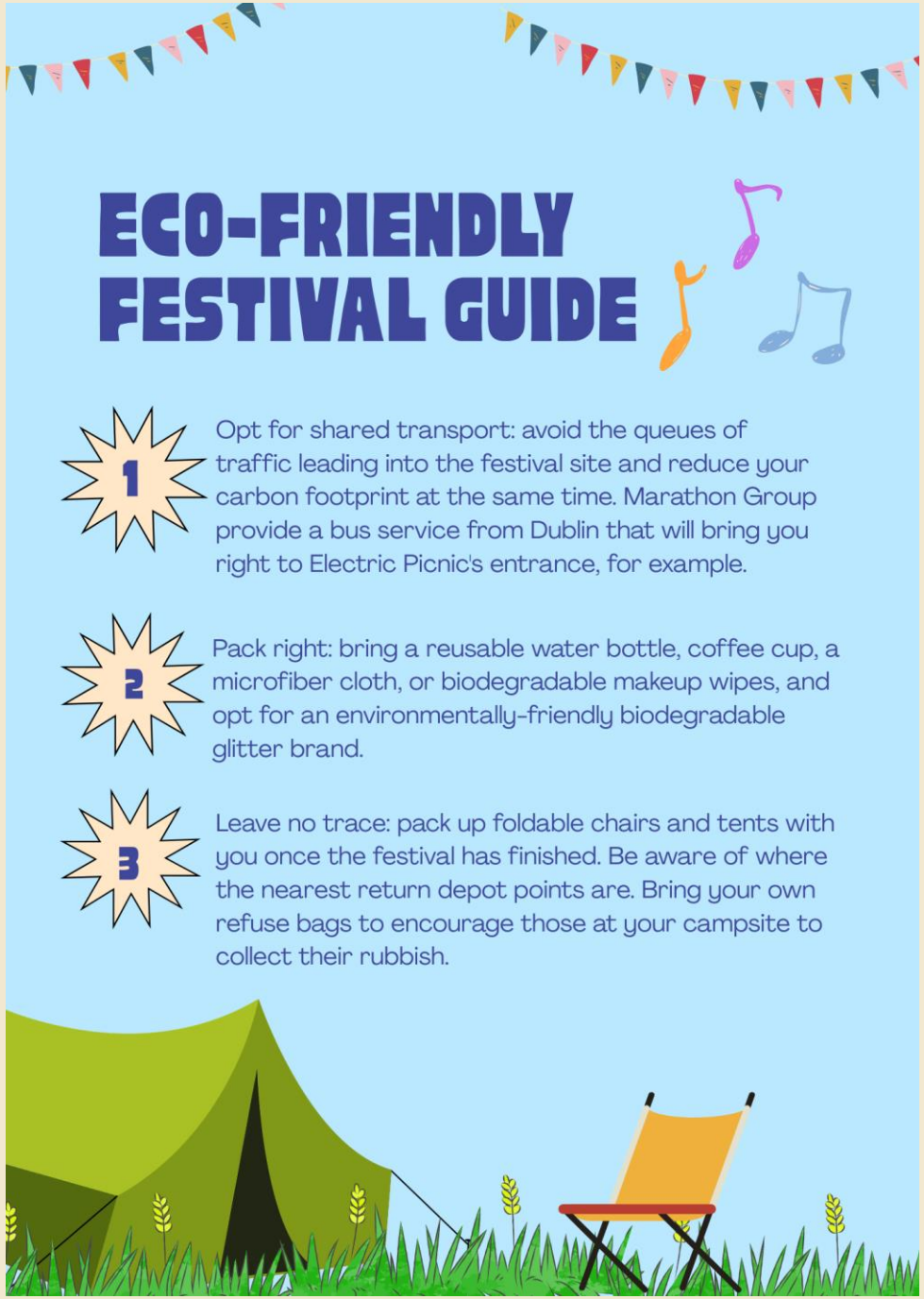
Climate Action Team Recommendation

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 August, the Climate Action Team are recommending Georgina Stevens' Climate action: the future is in our hands. Take a look inside the library catalogues here.



Eco-Friendly Festival Guide

With major Irish music festivals coming up in August, make sure you pack right and enjoy them in a way that's mindful of waste and the environment. Follow our guide below to ensure you're making the right decisions this festival season.



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
- Preferred coloursThe 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.

August Circular Economy Hack: Zero Waste Candles

As we enjoy the nicer weather and make use of our gardens this month, we might be tempted to give them a makeover. Before buying new garden furniture, consider upcycling. It's surprising how much old pieces can come to life with a few simple steps. Follow the tutorial here for guidance.

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:

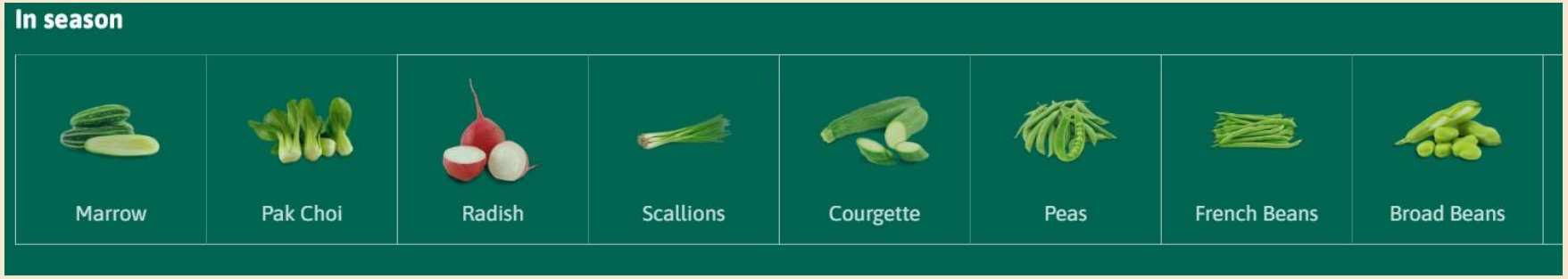
- Returning it to a retailer
- Using a WEEE recycling point or civic amenity site
- Using an ERP battery recycling box

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 Water Week takes place from the 23rd to 27th August under the theme "Water for People and Progress". This week opens up dialogue on water governance and sustainability. While this week-long event will be in Stockholm, many online sessions can be booked free of charge through this page.

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:

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