Welcome to the November 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

European Week for Waste Reduction

European Week for Waste Reduction takes place from the 21st -29th November this year. This year's theme is "Questioning our choices, valuing our resources". This week aims to challenge societal habits of overconsumption and encourage material sufficiency (making the most out of what we already have). See the attached infographic for some interesting statistics on European waste sources and tips on how to reduce them.



Recycled Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

Calling all young creative eco warriors and festive designers! Can you turn everyday recycled materials into a decoration worthy of a Christmas tree? We're inviting primary school students across Fingal to get creative and give new life to materials that might otherwise be thrown away. Using items such as cardboard, paper, fabric scraps, bottle caps, old buttons, packaging materials and other recyclable treasures, design and create a unique Christmas tree decoration.

Let your imagination shine while helping to promote the circular economy and waste reduction. The closing date is 27th November. Winners will receive books, colouring books, biodiversity swatches and more, and the winning decorations will adorn the Christmas Tree in the atrium of County Hall, Swords.

To find out more, click here.



Circular Communication Grants

The Circular Communication Grants 2026, which are provided under the circular.ie project, are now open for applications to support community initiatives to share their circular story and grow their impact. This year, they are offering grants across three tiers:

- Physical Communications: €1,000 grant to support communications and marketing activities that strengthen an initiative's physical presence.

- Digital Communications: €5,000 grants to support initiatives looking to expand their digital presence.

- National Communications: €10,000 grants to support more established initiatives looking to scale their communications and reach, including web design and one-to-one mentorship to develop their communications to a national standard.



The application deadline is 09 Nov 2026. To find out more, click here.

Toy Upcycling with Scéal

Fingal Climate Action, alongside Scéal Art Collective from Balbriggan, facilitated two successful toy upcycling workshops for families in Blanchardstown Library and Skerries Library in October. These well-attended workshops invited attendees to bring their own unused toys and find new life for them through the art of upcycling. Throughout the sessions, the artists from Scéal assisted children and parents in using mending and repair techniques to create "Franken-Toys" in keeping with the Halloween theme. These events encouraged active participation and promoted zero waste crafts. The Climate Action Team are thankful to Fingal Libraries and to Scéal for making these workshops possible.



Reduce your Food Waste this Christmas with Aoife Munn

Christmas is a time of celebration, but it can also lead to a significant increase in food waste. Join this lively talk to learn how to plan festive meals, shop smarter, store food correctly, make the most of leftovers, and reduce food waste throughout the holiday season while helping you save money and reduce your environmental impact.

Free to attend/ booking is essential. See below for details and booking links.

Malahide Library, Wednesday 2nd December, 6 - 7 pm. Can be booked by clicking here, or contacting malahidelibrary@fingal.ie / (01) 870 4430.

Blanchardstown Library, Tuesday 8th December, 6.30 - 7.30 pm. Can be booked by clicking here.



Ireland's Marine Atlas Published

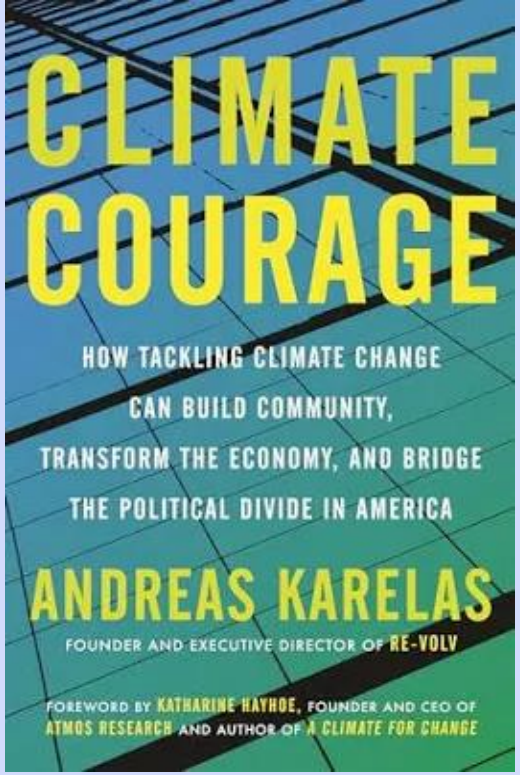
The Marine Institute and UCC have published a marine atlas showing the diversity in marine space surrounding the island of Ireland. This map offers insight into the various rock types that can be found in our deepest seabeds, which opens up the conversation of what can be done to protect them.

The atlas can be explored 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 September, the Climate Action Team is recommending Climate Courage by Andreas Karelas. This title is available in eBook form and can be reserved through BorrowBox. Take a look inside the library catalogues here.



Global Goals Book Club

The Green-Schools Global Goals Book Club is a growing collection of children's books designed to help students explore global citizenship, sustainability, and the world around them through story. Each title is linked to one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and supported by child-friendly worksheets and activities that build empathy, critical thinking, and real-world understanding. More details here.

Schools throughout the county can borrow the full book club collection directly from their local library. Each book includes a QR code linking to the Green-Schools website, where teachers and students will find carefully created resources and activities aligned with the Global Goals. Teachers can borrow the complete book collection for their class by emailing their local Fingal Library, the list of addresses can be found here.

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 provides businesses with opportunities to use branded eCargo bikes in their facilities? eCargo bikes are perfect for communities and businesses alike, as they have no fuel or parking costs. They are also suitable for all ages and are better for the environment, reducing emissions associated with car use.

Fingal County Council provides opportunities for businesses to use a branded eCargo bike or to host an eCargo bike in their facility to rent out to businesses, organisations and individuals.

More info on business eCargo opportunities can here.

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



Fingal Climate Action Plan Implementation

The Fingal Climate Action Plan of 2024- 2029 has seen the implementation of many energy-saving initiatives in the County Council to date. Public lighting is now completely powered by LEDs, which rely on less electricity than conventional bulbs and have a longer lifespan. This has reduced the energy associated with public lighting by 57%. To see the other ways we are progressing in delivering our Climate Action Plan, see the annual report here.

Small Actions, Big Difference: Climate Action Animation Series

Fingal Climate Action has created an animation series called 'Small Actions, Big Difference' which can show you easy, accessible climate actions that you can start today, helping to build a healthier, more sustainable Fingal for everyone. This month, why not learn about energy and watch the video here.



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. Click here to play the 'Take a minute, before you bin it!' Game.

School Resources

Simple practices and actions to enhance waste prevention, segregation and recycling, can be found here.

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.

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.

Cúpla Focal - Irish Climate Phrases

Trying to navigate the world of Climate terminology as gaeilge? The below phrases might help:

- Athchúrsáil (Recycling)
- Inbhuanaithe (Sustainable)
- Bruascar (Litter)

The Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 is available to read in Irish here.

If you need help pronouncing any of these climate phrases, search them on foclóir.ie.

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

COP31 will take place this year from the 9th - 20th November in Antalya, Turkey. The theme this year is implementation- how we can translate climate policies into action. To follow the proceedings of this conference, 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.

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