

# Welcome to the October 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

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## Reuse October

Commit to reusing this October to lower your carbon footprint and support the circular economy. See our tips to the right for making the most of this month.



## Guidance for schools

We hope the return to school has gone well for all in Fingal. A limited number of environmental programmes and workshops are available to schools free of charge. For more information, click [here](#).

Additional resources available to schools, including simple practices and actions to enhance waste prevention, segregation and recycling, can be found [here](#).



## Education for Sustainable Development Funding

The Minister for Education and Youth has announced a €1 million funding initiative to support schools nationwide in delivering innovative Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) projects. Primary and post-primary schools are now invited to apply for grants of up to €2,500 to develop sustainability-focused projects. To find out more, click [here](#).

## Go Green This Halloween

Follow the below guidance to ensure your Halloween is an enjoyable *and* waste-free one.

# Go Green This Halloween



**Decorations**  
Make your own or reuse spooky decorations instead of buying. Consider swapping decorations with a neighbour or friend to mix it up!



**Costumes**  
Buy second-hand, reuse old outfits, swap or make your own ghoulish costumes! Think of facepaints instead of plastic masks.



**Treats**  
Buy locally produced foods, sweets and devil treats. Consider minimal packaging or recycled materials.



**Pumpkins**  
Buy pumpkins from local farms or grow your own. Use every bit of the pumpkin from toasting the seeds to pumpkin soup to a ghostly pasta bake!



**Transportation**  
Trick or Treat by walking around your locality instead of the dreaded drive. Use public transport when needed for Halloween Events.



**Compost**  
Consider composting all your creepy organic matter and recycling other items.



**Recycle**  
Your leftover ghastly food, cans, plastic and glass bottles can be recycled.

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Phlín Gail  
Fingal County  
Council



Scan the QR code or  
Visit [www.fingal.ie/safer-halloween](http://www.fingal.ie/safer-halloween)  
for Safety Tips and information on Fingal Halloween Events



## **Halloween Circular Economy Workshops**

The Rediscovery Centre will facilitate a Halloween workshop exploring the principles of circular economy and how we can create Halloween decorations by reusing materials. This 90 minutes, hands-on workshop will explore the topic of waste through interactive activities and get creative by designing and making Halloween crafts by upcycling waste. Booking is essential and can be done by calling the numbers below. This workshop can facilitate a maximum of 30 participants.

### Workshop Allocations:

Tuesday 27th 10:00 - 11:30 - Applewood Community Centre (Swords) - 01 807 9582

Tuesday 27th 14:00-15:30 - Huntstown Community Centre (Dublin 15) - 01 822 0847

Wednesday 28th 10:00 - 11:30 - St. Macullins Centre (Lusk) - 01 8954180

Wednesday 28th 14:00-15:30 - Holywell Community Centre (Swords) - 01 897 1010

## **Fingal Towns nominated for Ireland's Greenest Places list for 2026**

[Congratulations](#) to the two groups who have been nominated for Ireland's Greenest Places list of 2026.

- Bayside Community Orchard in Ireland's Greenest Suburb category
- Castleknock GAA Club in the Greenest Community category for their energy usage and waste systems project 'Greening of Somerton'

Both groups have showcased some fantastic climate action initiatives that have helped in greening their respective areas. To see a full list of nominees, click [here](#).

## Build your own Franken-Toy with Scéal

This Halloween, Fingal Climate Action and Scéal invite you to a hands-on toy upcycling workshop. Don't let old toys go to waste - give them a new lease of life by designing and creating your own "Franken-Toy". This event runs for 2 hours and allows participants to come up with as many ghoulish creations as possible.

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 a parent or guardian. Please ensure your tickets are booked for each individual attending (both adult and child) so we do not exceed room capacity.

This workshop will run in Blanchardstown Library on Monday the 12th October from 4 to 6pm. Booking is essential and can be done [here](#).

A second workshop will run in Skerries Library on Monday the 19th October from 3 to 5 pm and can be booked [here](#).



**BUILD YOUR OWN  
FRANKEN-TOY**  
Toy Upcycling with Scéal

Blanchardstown Library:  
Monday, 12 October, 4 - 6 pm

Skerries Library:  
Monday 19 October, 3 - 5pm

Suitable for 4-12 year olds,  
accompanied by a parent.

**Free to attend. Booking is  
essential through the  
Eventbrite links above.**



## Free Electrical Recycling

Want to support the environment and de-clutter your home by recycling your electrical waste? Then check out the ERP FREE Electrical Recycling Drop-Off Day at:

Milfield Shopping Centre, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, on Saturday, September 30th, 2023, 10am to 4pm

You can drop off any household item with a plug or a battery - large or small - such as TVs, washing machines, IT equipment, stereos, mobile phones, battery-operated toys, power tools, cables, chargers and wireless ear buds. We even recycle used vapes!

And don't forget to support Batteries for Barretstown and bring your used batteries for recycling!

For further information and to see future collection dates, click [here](#).



**European Recycling Platform**

**FREE ELECTRICAL RECYCLING**

Drop off any household electrical item with a plug, cable, battery, or used vapes.

**DROP OFF DAY**

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES FOR BARRETSTOWN AND NEVER BIN A BATTERY!

**MILLFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE, BALBRIGGAN**  
**SAT 10TH OCT, 10AM-4PM**

Non-electrical items will not be collected

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gull Fingel County Council

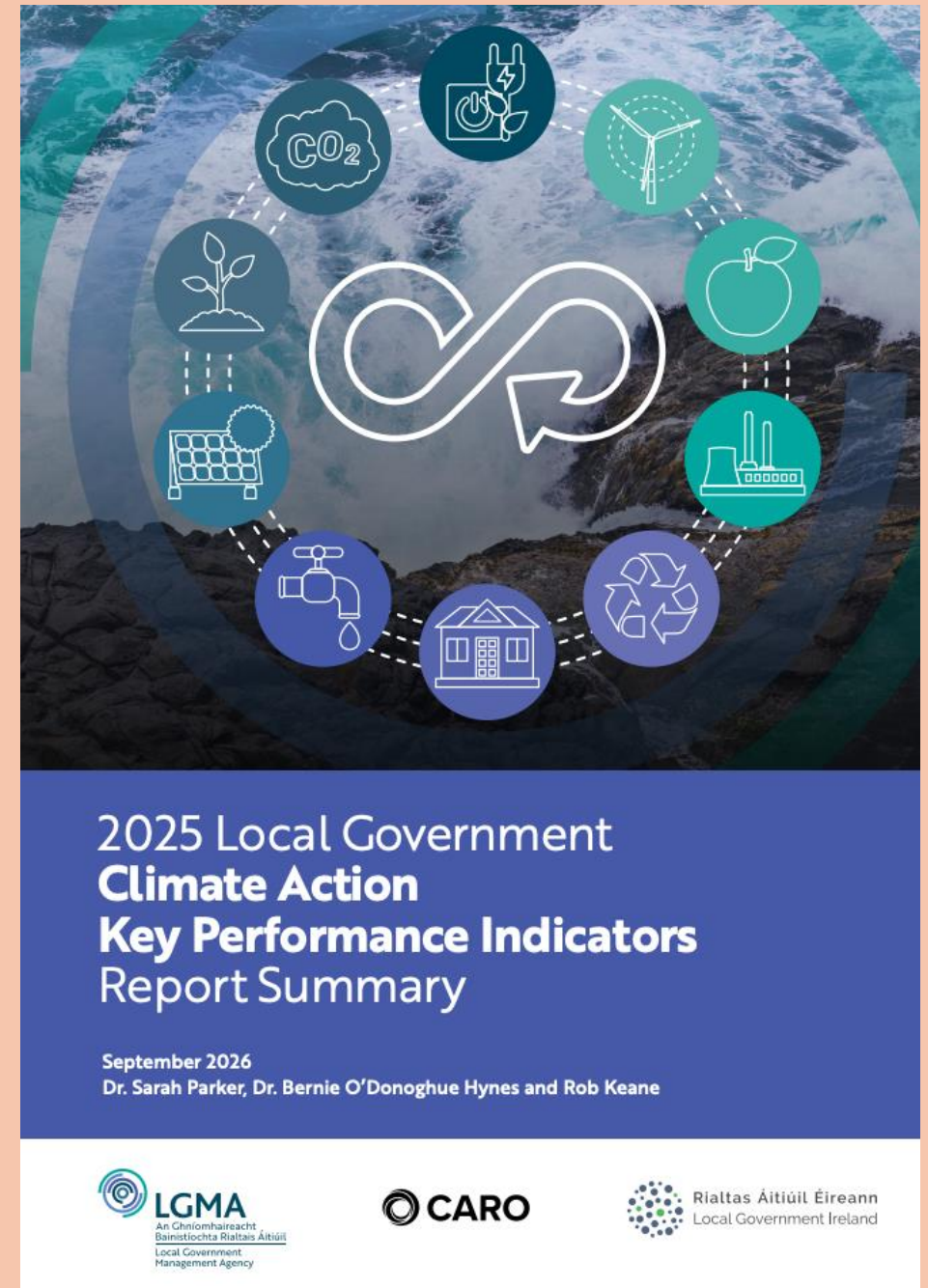


## Key Performance Indicator Report Summary published for 2025

The Local Authority Climate Action Key Performance Indicator Report Summary was published in September and outlines the nationwide progress in supporting the transition to a more sustainable and climate-resilient future. This report tracks progress across:

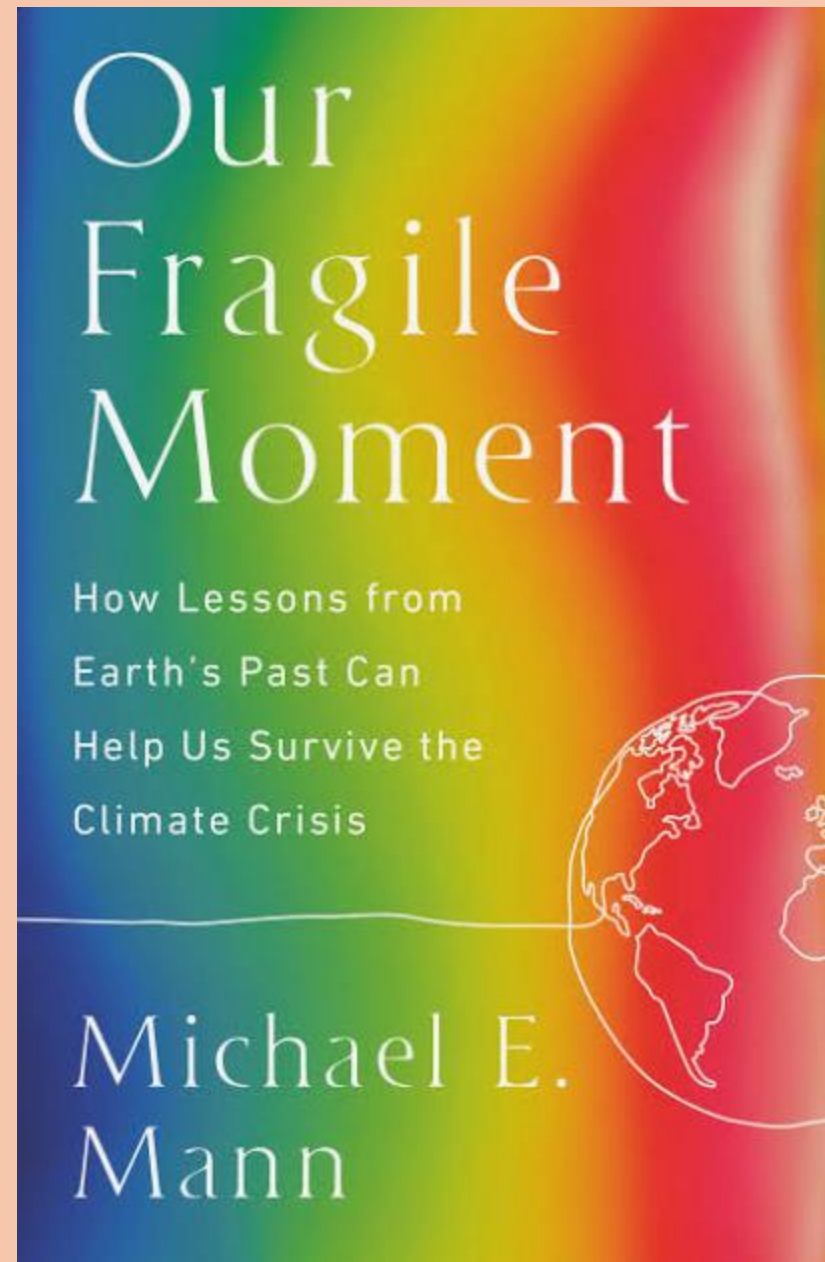
Climate Action Staff and Teams, Active Travel, Social Housing Retrofit, Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Climate Action Plan Actions, Severe Weather Responses, Staff Training, Green for Business Initiatives, and Community Climate Action Programmes.

Read the summary of this report [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 *Our Fragile Moment* by Michael E. Mann. This title is available in eBook form and can be reserved through BorrowBox. Take a look inside the library catalogues [here](#).



## BirdWatch Ireland Talk

On the 24th September BirdWatch Ireland facilitated a talk on the Little Terns of Portrane in Bayside Community Centre. This event ran as part of Sustainable Development Goals Week and covered the theme of SDG 15 - Life on Land. The presentation explored the behaviour of the birds, the ongoing work undertaken by BirdWatch to protect them, and some practical advice on how to best care for their habitats. Fingal Climate Action would like to thank Bayside Community Centre for hosting and BirdWatch Ireland for providing such an informative event for the community. To learn more about BirdWatch Fingal and to find links to support their future projects, click [here.](#)



## Sustainable Energy Communities Networking Day

On Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> September, Fingal Climate Action and SEAI hosted a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Networking event in Huntstown Community Centre. This session covered how SECs can be formed, how they can apply for funding and explored possible project ideas using existing case studies. The session was well attended by those already in a Sustainable Energy Communities and those interested in forming or joining one, allowing valuable information sharing between attendees. Thank you to all who attended, to SEAI for facilitating the event, to all case study speakers and to Huntstown Community Centre for hosting. To learn more about Sustainable Energy Communities, visit the [SEAI website](#).



## Energy Efficiency Day 2026

### Home Energy Saving Drop-In Clinic in Rush Library

Join Fingal Climate Action and Codema at Rush Library from 10.30am - 1 pm on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October for Energy Efficiency Day 2026. Codema's Home Energy Saving Kit, which is available to borrow from Fingal Libraries, will be demonstrated. Dublin's Energy Agency Codema will show you how to use the kit's five easy tools to check for heat loss, insulation issues and appliance energy use. There will be free energy-saving tips and resources to take home. All welcome. No booking necessary.

ThinkEnergy.ie

### Smart ways to save energy

Discover simple ways to slash your energy bills and monitor your energy usage at home with the Home Energy Saving Kits.

**Wednesday, 7th October 2026, 10.30am - 1.00pm**

**Rush Library**

No need to register in advance, simply drop-in!

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



## Improve Your Home Energy Efficiency with Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community

Home energy improvements lead to reduced energy usage and savings on your energy bills. This information session will be held in Balbriggan Library on the 7th October from 6 to 7.30pm, and in it Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community will answer all your questions on available supports and grants to improve home energy efficiency. Balbriggan SEC will guide you to the grant option that suits you best and help with the application process if needed. All welcome.

## Join Balbriggan SEC Today

**FREE to join**

✓ **Have your say on local projects**

📢 **Stay informed on local energy initiatives**

👉 **Get involved in community projects**

**Scan to become a member**

Or join at [balbriggansec.com](http://balbriggansec.com)



## Improve Your Home Energy Efficiency

Balbriggan Library

October 7th

6pm – 7:30pm

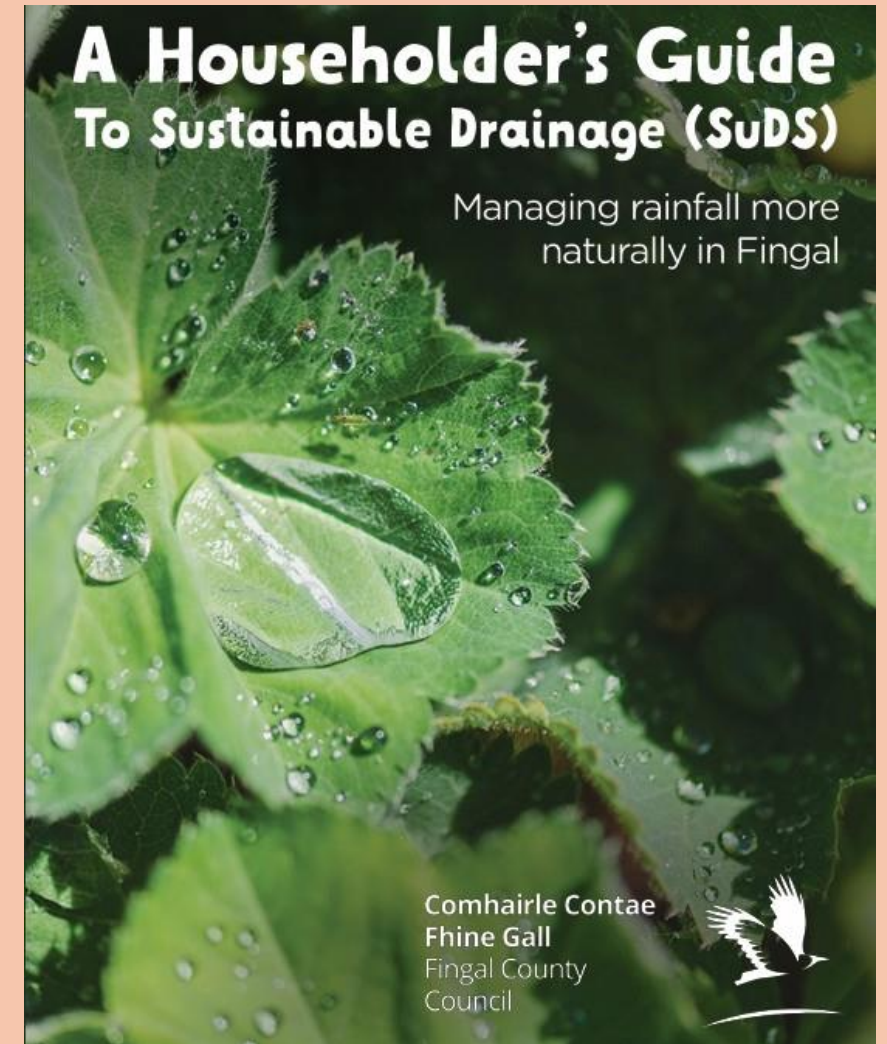
## Fingal Climate Stories Map

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 published a "'A Householder's Guide to Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) - Managing Rainfall more naturally in Fingal', a concise resource designed to help homeowners explore more sustainable methods for managing rainfall. The guide can be accessed [here](#).

Watch our climate action animation video [here](#) to learn more about how SUDs help us become more flood resilient.

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

Fingal County Council is committed to improving energy efficiency across residential, commercial and community sectors. In 2025, 119 social homes were retrofitted, and 286 PV panels were installed across Baldoyle Library, County Hall Offices and Hartstown Community Centre. This has led to a reduction of energy-related emissions by 3.5%. 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 community climate action and watch the video [here](#).



## EU Right to Repair Directive

With the Circular Economy Act of 2026 coming into effect this year, EU states will need to further promote the “right to repair” through offering economic incentives, waste disposal policies, and recognition of community-led repair initiatives. Minister O'Brien and Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke have announced new regulations to make repairing more accessible and attractive to the public, which will help in prolonging the circularity of our clothes. Read the full report [here](#).

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.



## Zero-Waste Resources

### 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](mailto: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.

## 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](#).

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## **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:

- Athrú Aeráide (Climate Change)
- Fuinneamh (Energy)
- Comhshaol (Environment)

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](https://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

The 1st October is National Tree Day. This year's theme is "Planting for the Planet". See what activities you can do to make the most of this day by clicking [here](#).

Energy Efficiency Day takes place on the 7th of October. Need advice on how to save energy? Plan your energy journey with help from SEAI by clicking [here](#).

The 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) takes place from the 19th to the 30th of October. This event will mark a global review of collective efforts to increase biological diversity. Subscribe to the conference newsletter [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](mailto:environment.education@fingal.ie) / [climateaction@fingal.ie](mailto:climateaction@fingal.ie)