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## Newsletter: January 2026

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Its implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

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### **To spot this month: keep an eye out for winter-active bumblebees**

January is still a quiet month for sightings. The normal lifecycle of most Irish bumblebees ends when the workers and males die off and the newly mated queens hibernate through the cold winter months. However, in more recent years, workers of the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) have been observed foraging during winter months in both Ireland and in Britain. We don't know if these winter bumblebees are able to complete their lifecycle. You can help improve our understanding by submitting your sightings of winter-active bumblebees to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



[Submit your bumblebee sightings](#)

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### **To do this month: consider planting a new native hedgerow**

Planting a diverse native hedgerow and managing it for biodiversity is one of the best actions you can take to help pollinators. The planting window is from November to February. Within the National Biodiversity Data Centre, we have published a short flyer on how to plant a new hedgerow.



Hedgerow planting flyer

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Council Partner Report 2025

The 2025 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Council Partner report has been published. Now in its tenth year, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has gathered support from councils on the island of Ireland. Since 2023, all 42 Councils have formally partnered with the Plan and committed to better managing public spaces for pollinators.

The Council Partner Annual Report is a review of the vast range of work overseen by councils for the benefit of pollinators each year. Every Council is different, as reflected in the varied areas of focus and the wide range of actions reported. The intention of this report is to showcase the positive work being carried out by councils, and to provide a mechanism for knowledge exchange.

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



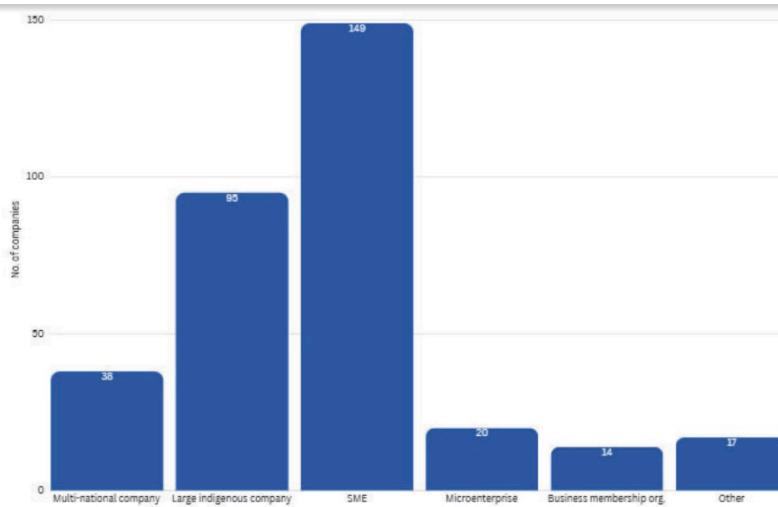
## COUNCIL PARTNERS: ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

Read about the inspiring work being carried out across this sector

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Business Supporters Annual Review 2025

We are delighted to publish this year's 'All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: Annual Review Business Supporters 2025'. All AIPP business supporters were asked to submit a mandatory 300-word report via Microsoft Forms, plus map evidence-based actions delivered on Actions for Pollinators GIS – the biodiversity-accountability portal.

We are thrilled with the evidence-based actions delivered by businesses this year. And, as ever, there is lots more to do. 328 businesses have responded on their actions for pollinators in 2025 and are featured in this report and in the Actions for Pollinators GIS mapping.



Read about the excellent work happening across this sector

### New video: celebrating the AIPP 2021-2025

A new video celebrates the work that has been done to help pollinating insects during the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025. Since 2015, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has been bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to transform the landscape for pollinating insects. The second phase (2021-2025) has seen more involvement than ever from farmers, councils, communities, businesses, gardeners, schools and sports clubs.

In this video, we hear from some of the people who have transformed their landscapes for pollinators as part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 including local authorities, farmers, community groups, schools and sports clubs.

Thanks to the Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network for providing funding to develop this video.



[Access the video](#)

### Green Flag Pollinator Award Winners 2025

On the 12th November, we joined An Taisce at Maynooth University at the Green Flag Awards for the Republic of Ireland. Once again, we were delighted to judge with the Pollinator Award, which celebrates parks that are managed for pollinating insects. Our green spaces are vital for biodiversity and human health and wellbeing, and this year's winners showed that it's possible to manage parks for the benefit of people and pollinators.

This year's overall winners are Maynooth Campus, (pictured, who also won in the 'Town Park' category); Ballycroy Visitor Centre, Wild Nephin National Park (Country Park/ Demesne winner); Sneem Garden of the Senses (Community Garden winner); and Ardgillan Walled Garden (Walled Garden winner). Due to the high quality of this year's applications, a further thirteen parks were highly commended.

Northern Ireland Beautiful. The awards ceremony was hosted in the Walled Garden at Bangor Castle, where four sites received Green Flag Pollinator Awards.

Huge congratulations to all winners and highly commended parks.



[Read more](#)

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