

Read online here: <https://conta.cc/3Vrna7S>



**Irish
Environmental
Network**



As the days get shorter the event list gets longer! There are events galore this month on all kinds of topics, offering a great way to meet people who are working on similar issues, to upskill and learn something new, and to celebrate! As well as the individual events listed, have a look at the links to Climate Action Week and Cavan Eco Féile to find more events taking place as part of these festivals.

I'm just back from the national conference for Public Participation Networks, this year organised by Roscommon PPN. It was a wonderful few days that I found rejuvenating and re-energising, with speakers that offered motivation and hope, workshops that gave a boost for getting into the tasks of the PPN, and the opportunity to catch up with staff and Reps in person and enjoy ourselves.

One of the workshops focused in on a report from Sligo PPN which I thought you might find interesting as environmental groups. ***What's Stopping Us? Barriers to action by Community and Voluntary Groups; with specific reference to involvement in Climate Action.*** The report outlines challenges that we all face working in voluntary groups, and puts figures on the percentage of groups that are facing the same difficulties. It is the hope that we can use this report to lobby for further resources for voluntary groups, but I also think it provides useful insight for groups who rely on volunteers or who work to assist these voluntary groups in their work. Personally, I will be redoubling my efforts to create a database of resources, projects and actions. I am putting shape on my next steps towards this so keep an eye out in the next newsletter for an update on this work.

Le meas,
Catherine

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- **10th @ 10am:** Library Seed Bank Training Day – Irish Seed Savers Association - Clare
- **10th @ 11am:** Beaumont Quarry Clean up - Cork City
- **10th & 11th:** Galtee Peatlands Visioning Workshop - Cork
- **10th & 11th:** Permaculte Masterclass with Geoff Lawton - Cork
- **11th @ 3pm:** Environmental Film Series with County Carlow Environmental Network #1 - Carlow
- **13th @ 7.30pm:** The Nature Restoration Regulation: last best hope for peatland rewilding? - Dublin
- **12th - 18th:** Climate Action Week - Nationwide
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- **4th @ 7pm:** Environmental Film Series with County Carlow Environmental Network #2 - Carlow
- **4th @ 10.30am:** Governance for a Resilient Environment - Belfast
- **14th:** National Climate Demonstration 2026 - Dublin

Community Groups Showcase

Join those who are making a difference for nature and climate in your county! Find people in your area who share your interests and goals for 2026. Below are just three groups out of hundreds in Ireland.

Find more on your PPN's website. Go to their 'members' section and sort by 'Environmental Pillar' to see some of the groups in your area.

Already in a group of your own? Find your PPN online (search 'your county' and 'ppn') to join for free and receive free training, information on local events and funding, and the opportunities to affect local policy creation in your County Council.



Trees Please

Cork City

Trees Please is a Cork based voluntary group, that was set up in 2019 when a group of like-minded tree enthusiasts came together. Our collective aim is to grow and propagate as many native trees as possible, and we encourage others to do the same through our tree distribution days and community engagement activities. We plant trees to improve ecosystem biodiversity for all living beings, and for the well-being of generations to come.

New collaborators and volunteers are always welcomed.

[Read more here](#)



Seabed Sanctuary

Cork

Seabed Sanctuary is an artists' initiative working at the intersection of art and environmental science. We are a not-for-profit collective of independent practitioners who care about biodiversity loss in our coastal waters; artists working with environmentalists, marine professionals, and concerned citizens. Currently we are in the research and development stage of creating an underwater sculpture garden in Bantry Bay, Ireland.

[Read more here](#)



Saint Fintan's Green Action

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown

St. Fintan's Green Action is a biodiversity and climate initiative by the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Council in County Dublin, focused on rewilding and environmental stewardship in their community and on church grounds.

Get in touch via Foxrock Parish Office:
secretary@foxrockparish.ie



IENT Member spotlight

Eco Advocacy

Eco Advocacy advocates for truth and justice in environmental matters. We focus on issues of: Planning and Environmental Law, Biodiversity and specifically Invasive Species, Sustainability (Energy supply, employment, natural resources), Conservation, Policy.

[More info and get in touch](#)

[See all IEN members here](#)

Local News



West Wicklow
Environmental Network

Successful Bat Walk in Baltinglass

On a warm dry September evening, West Wicklow Environmental Network met in the old Stratford Lodge school in Baltinglass to learn all about Irish bats. Our guest speaker was Justin Ivory, a member of Bat Conservation Ireland's bat panel. Bookings were brisk and we had a full house on the night.

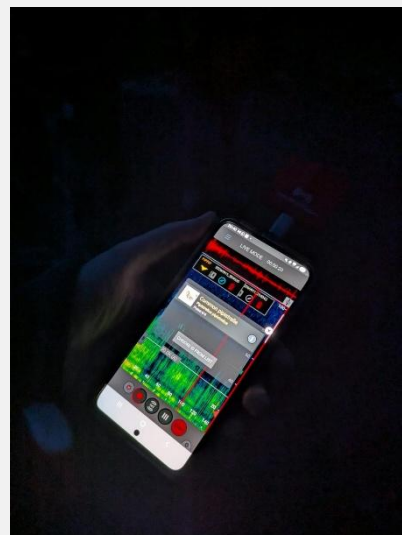
The evening began with a quiz-style presentation where people we asked to write down their answers to age old questions like 'Do bats get tangled up in long hair?' and 'Are bats blind?'

We learned that there are in fact nine species of Irish bats and worldwide about 1500 species. Our bats are all insectivorous and feed on things like moth, midge and crane fly and are really important for pest control in agriculture. In our gardens we can help bats by introducing night-scented flowers such as honeysuckle and evening primrose and if we create a pond the insect population will increase, greatly benefiting the bats as they can eat their own body weight of insects each night. How many insects can a bat eat in one night -more than 3000!

We need have no fear of our bats, they don't transmit rabies to humans and it's a privilege if we have them, says Justin. Very often they are present in our attics, and we don't even know it. During the summer months females gather in maternity roosts, each rearing their single pup. In the autumn they will leave these small spaces between the felt and batons to go and hibernate elsewhere. Slowing their metabolic rate, bats go into a true hibernation for the winter months when the insects they need are not flying.

After the bat quiz, we stepped outside into the warm evening air, with our bat detectors set to 45kHz. Almost instantly the detectors were buzzing as we could hear and see the Common Pipistrelle zipping past us between the trees overhead. This is Ireland's smallest bat species, weighing about 5g, with a thumb-sized body and a wingspan of 22cm. Justin's detector was also picking up the Soprano Pipistrelle, strongest at 55kHz frequency. Until bat detectors became popular, we didn't know the Soprano as a distinct species.

Discover the other bats that were found on this walk and a tip on sourcing a bat detector for your own bat walks in the rest of this article at westwicklowen.ie, written by Patrick Hunt of the WWEN Committee.



Events

OCTOBER EVENTS



The State of Mining in Ireland



Oct 4th, 9.30am - 4pm
Dublin

Is mining intensifying in Ireland?

What are the implications of that for people, place and planet? What are the past, current and future impacts of mining and its supply chain on the island and beyond?

Join us to hear from experts and impacted communities (experts by experience) and to join the discussion.

[Find more info and tickets here](#)

In partnership with:

FEASTA, Saving the Environment of Navan Townlands (SENT), Save Our Sperrins and Communities Against the Injustice of Mining (CAIM) network.



INVITATION TO ATTEND OUR OILED WILDLIFE FACILITIES LAUNCH

Kildare Wildlife Rescue
Monday 5th October @ 2pm



Official opening of our specialist Oiled Wildlife Facilities

*Oct 4th, 2pm - 4pm
Kildare*



This event marks a significant milestone for wildlife rehabilitation and emergency response in Ireland. Kildare Wildlife Rescue is the only wildlife hospital and rehabilitation centre in Ireland with dedicated specialist facilities, together with the experience and expertise required to respond to and care for wildlife affected by oil pollution.

The development of these facilities represents an important step forward in Ireland's capacity to respond to oil pollution incidents and wildlife emergencies. The specialist care, treatment and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife requires extensive knowledge, appropriate facilities and a coordinated response to give affected animals the best possible chance of recovery and release.

While the completion of these facilities is an important milestone, it is only the beginning. There is still much more to be done as we continue to develop and strengthen our facilities and capacity to meet the growing needs of wildlife rehabilitation and conservation in Ireland.

[Register here](#)

Otter Walk along the River Shannon, Limerick

*Oct 5th, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Limerick*



Come join Nature Network Ireland for a guided walk and talk along the River Shannon.

This hour-long walk will be led by a Nature Network Ireland expert and will allow you the opportunity to learn about Otters, how to spot them and their habitats. This walk will start at the main plaza and follow the River Shannon as it winds its way through the University of Limerick campus. Come spend an hour learning about these charismatic creatures.

[Join the waiting list](#)

Agroforestry for Water Quality & Resilience in the Lough Neagh Catchment walk-and-talk events Farm Walk Series

*Oct 5th - 8th
Armagh*



Hosted by the Irish Agroforestry Forum in collaboration with Trees on the Land, Ulster Wildlife, the Rivers Trust and the Blackwater River Catchment Trust and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

These walks are supported by the Shared Island Fund provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Join us for a series of farm walks exploring how integrating trees onto productive farms can protect and improve water quality, mitigate flooding, and boost farm resilience across the Lough Neagh catchment. These walks offer a practical look at how trees manage nutrient run-off, enhance soil infiltration, and restore waterways. The walk series will include visits to farms to see a newly planted site, farms planning systems and 37 year old established trials at Loughgall. Whether you are a farmer, landowner, advisor, forester or student, these visits will provide valuable information and knowledge on how to integrate trees into farming systems so they provide ecosystem services that will help and support production and the environment. Please wear appropriate footwear -boots/wellingtons and bring a waterproof coat.

[See Event Details Here](#)



Protect our Health, Water & Biodiversity from Pesticides

When? 6 October 2026 at 10:00 (GMT+1)

Where? Gibson Hotel, Dublin & Online



Protect our Health, Water & Biodiversity from Pesticides

*Oct 6th, 10am - 2pm
Dublin and Online*

Please note change of venue: The new venue is The Gibson Hotel, Dublin & Online.

Background:

Under the upcoming Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, crucial discussions are expected on the future of EU pesticide regulation, including the proposed Food and Feed Safety Omnibus package. Civil society organisations, scientists, water sector representatives and beekeepers across Europe have expressed serious concerns that parts of the proposed deregulation agenda could weaken environmental and health protections, particularly regarding pesticides and pollinator safety.

This high-level conference aims to create a constructive platform for dialogue between policymakers, scientists, civil society and stakeholders. The event will present the latest scientific evidence on pesticides' impacts on health, water quality, biodiversity and pollinators, while discussing how EU legislation can better uphold the precautionary principle and support a truly sustainable agricultural transition.

[More info and register here](#)



Narratives of Green Growth and Degrowth in Popular Hollywood Films

*Oct 7th, 2pm - 4pm
Belfast*

IN-PERSON LECTURE. Green Foundation Ireland, In collaboration with the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Justice, invite you to join us for the above lecture which will be chaired by JOHN BARRY, Professor of Green Political Economy at Queen's University Belfast.



As we breach so many planetary boundaries, film and media must address the dilemma of western over-consumption and the resulting need for economic degrowth – or at least some form of green growth, which the EU has been promoting up to recently. This can be illustrated by Hollywood's ongoing fixation with 'saving the planet' and cautionary science fiction storylines that often call attention to problems around over-consumption and the urgent need for degrowth. Examples used to illustrate the lecture include WALL-E, Downsizing, the Avatar franchise and the Netflix hit, Don't Look Up.

Our guest lecturer will be PAT BRERETON, Emeritus Professor at Dublin City University, and who is Chair of Green Foundation Ireland. His latest book is "Farming in Ireland: Crisis and Climate – An Oral History from the Irish Midlands" (Wordwell, 2026). Over much of his academic career, Pat has remained preoccupied with how fictional (and documentary) narratives serve to address the climate emergency.

[More info](#)

[Book tickets](#)



Celebrate 25 years of the Native Woodland Schemes

Oct 8th & 9th
Leitrim

Woodlands of Ireland invite you to a gathering for talks, walks, discussions and networking, at Drumhierny Woodland Hideaway, Leitrim Village, Co. Leitrim on Thursday 8th & Friday 9th October 2026.

Registration:

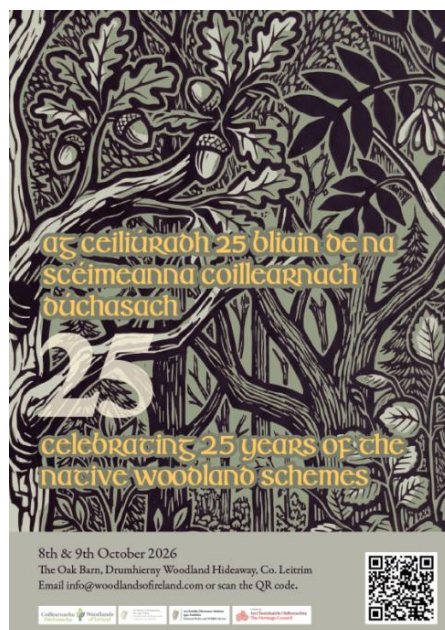
<https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/25-anniversary-nws/>

The existence of the Native Woodland Schemes since 2001 has to some degree acted as a catalyst in encouraging a greater landscape restoration and expansion of semi-natural woodland habitats in addition to measures funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The gathering for talks, walks, discussions and networking will focus on:

- (a) A retrospective of how and why the Native Woodland Schemes came into being
 - (b) An insight into the experience of foresters and ecologists employing the scheme measures.
 - (c) Future prospects for semi-natural woodland conservation and management
- followed by a field trip on Friday 9th October, visiting a site where Native Woodland Scheme measures have been applied.

This event is part-funded by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Forestry Promotions Projects Open Call 2026. Other Woodlands of Ireland funders include National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Heritage Council and the Irish Environmental Network.



Library Seed Bank Training Day – Irish Seed Savers Association

Oct 10th, 10am - 4.30pm
Clare



Irish Seed Savers Association is offering a specialist one-day training programme for library staff looking to establish and manage a community seed bank. Designed to be practical and implementation-focused, the day equips librarians with the skills, confidence, and tools to set up a seed library from scratch — condensing what could otherwise take months of research and trial and error into a single day.

Participants leave with a clear understanding of how a community seed library works, how to manage it effectively, and how to engage their local community, along with a complete, ready-to-use toolkit to move straight from training to delivery. The training is designed to build lasting capacity within the library service itself, so staff can run their seed library independently, shaped around their own county's targets and partnerships.

The training is led by Carimi Cortez Ribeiro, Curator and Gene Bank Manager at Irish Seed Savers, a biologist and plant scientist with a PhD in plant taxonomy and extensive field and herbarium research experience.

[Booking essential — see the Irish Seed Savers website for dates and details.](#)

Beaumont Quarry Clean up

*Oct 10th, 11am - 1pm
Cork City*

Join the Movement to Protect Cork's Biodiversity on
Saturday October 10th 2026

This hidden gem in Cork City is not just a disused quarry -
it's an important sanctuary for native plants, animals, and insects.

- What: Help us to manage and protect Beaumont Quarry's unique biodiversity
- When: Saturday October 10th from 11am to 1pm.
- Where: Meet at the top of the path into the quarry (look out for the Cork Nature Network sign)

Your volunteer efforts will help preserve the quarry's biodiversity, providing a safe haven for wildlife and a green space for all to enjoy. You'll meet other great volunteers with a passion for the environment.

[More info and register here](#)

Galtee Peatlands Visioning Workshop

*Oct 10th, 11am - 3pm
Forrest Hall, Mitchelstown , Cork*

*Oct 11th, 11am - 3pm
Deebert House Hotel, Cork*

Creative Communities Shine a Light on the Ballyhoura & Galtee Peatlands.

This community workshop will gather local stories and knowledge to create a collaborative exhibition, which will be unveiled at the project's launch event!

People living in and around the Ballyhoura and Galtee Mountains are being invited to take part in a series of free creative community workshops exploring the rich wildlife and our connections that make these peatlands so special.

Hosted in partnership with Ballyhoura Development, the workshops will bring together the local community to co-create a public exhibition inspired by the people who know these landscapes best.

These hands-on workshops will offer participants the opportunity to learn more about peatland ecology and biodiversity, explore their own connections with these remarkable habitats and contribute to a shared vision for their future.

Two dates available.

[More info and register for Saturday in Mitcheltstown](#)

[More info and register for Sunday at Deebert House Hotel](#)



Permaculte Masterclass with Geoff Lawton

Oct 10th & 11th
Cork

Transition Town Kinsale and Regenerate are happy to announce that Geoff Lawton, one of the world's top Permaculture Designers is coming to Kinsale this October from Australia.

Learn how to design abundant and regenerative landscapes with this experienced masterclass teacher.

If you are a landowner, farmer or you just want to redesign your garden, this workshop is not to be missed.

Watch Geoff's welcome message [here](#).

Contact info@regenerateourecosystem.ie to book your place today!



Geoff Lawton
Permaculture Masterclass
10 & 11 OCT 9-5PM €300

DAY 1 - KINSALE CAMPUS - KINSALE - P17NN67
MAINFRAME LAND DESIGN, WATER MANAGEMENT, DROUGHT PROOFING.

DAY 2 - KINSALE CAMPUS & LOCAL FARM SITE VISIT
ABUNDANT FOOD FOREST SYSTEMS THINKING, DESIGN & SPECIES SELECTION

Geoff Lawton is a world-renowned Australian permaculture consultant, designer, teacher, and speaker who leads The Permaculture Research Institute. Since 1995 he has specialized in permaculture education, design, system establishment and community development. His Greening the Desert project in Jordan is also a fantastic example of permaculture in action. This will be his first time teaching in Ireland!

Regenerate

Contact
info@regenerateourecosystem.ie
for further course info & payment details



Transition Town KINSALE
Working today for a sustainable tomorrow

CC | CountyCarlow
N | Environmental
Network

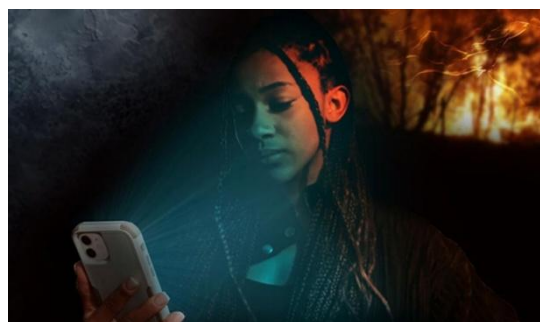
Environmental Film Series with County Carlow Environmental Network #1

Oct 11th, 3pm
Carlow

County Carlow Environmental Network (CCEN) has a new Environmental Film series taking place this Autumn-Winter in collaboration with the Visual Carlow.

The first of four films centres on the theme of Climate Change and Farming. Join us for a double showing of the films **#CLIMATECAM** and **Food For Thought** followed by a Q&A.

Tickets are free but must be booked. [Find out more about these films and book your tickets here.](#)



 **An Taisce**
The National Trust for Ireland

The Nature Restoration Regulation: last best hope for peatland rewilding?

Oct 13th, 7.30pm
Dublin

Professor John Feehan is a Geologist, Botanist, Author, and Broadcaster who will be sharing his insights into the rewetting of bogs and why we need to grasp the important opportunities to restore nature in these specialist habitats.

[Find more info and tickets here](#)



Climate Action Week

October 12th -18th
Nationwide

We're on the countdown to Climate Action Week, Ireland's 10th National Festival of Climate Action, and there are so many ways that you and your community can get involved!

👥 Attend a festival near you! Keep checking our event guide as new activities are being added daily. From interactive workshops and live demonstrations to insightful panel discussions and local community initiatives, Climate Action Week offers a packed schedule of fun events tailored for all ages and interests!

[View events here](#)

📅 Host an event! To add an event, simply click on the 'Add Your Event' tab on the [ClimateActionWeek.ie website](https://ClimateActionWeek.ie). You can also find [resources to help you host an event here](#).

Share your pictures, posts and reels with An Taisce's Climate Ambassadors, and they'll repost as many as we can! Please use #climateactionweek and tag @climateambassador to share.





Cavan Eco Féile

*Oct 23rd - 25th
Cavan*

Free concerts, family fun, climate expo, food markets, workshops and talks lined up for October Bank Holiday weekend

Cavan's flagship sustainability and innovation festival, **Cavan Eco Féile**, will take place from 23rd – 25th October with free live concerts from acts like the Tumbling Paddies, Highstool Prophets, Groev, and Spirit of Smokie, a climate expo featuring 13 floors of exhibits, local food and drink offerings, sustainability talks and workshops with leading business figures, and much more.

The festival is being organised by Cavan County Council to connect people, places and ideas for a more sustainable future, celebrating our shared capacity for positive change.

[Find out more here](#)

NOVEMBER EVENTS



Environmental Film Series with County Carlow Environmental Network #2

*Nov 4th, 7pm
Carlow*

County Carlow Environmental Network (CCEN) has a new Environmental Film series taking place this Autumn-Winter in collaboration with the Visual Carlow.



The second of four films centres on the theme of Marine Environment. Join us for **OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH**, which takes viewers on a breathtaking journey, showing there is nowhere more vital for our survival, more full of life, wonder, or surprise, than the ocean. Film screening TBC.

Tickets are free but must be booked. [Find out more about these films and book your tickets here.](#)



Governance for a Resilient Environment

*Nov 4th, 10.30am - 4pm
Belfast (venue TBC)*

This free training day is the first in a series, aimed at environmental NGOs across the island of Ireland.

We will look practically at:

- Building and recruiting an effective board
- Developing the policies that keep an organisation accountable
- Building the structures and systems that help organisations grow sustainably, whether they are volunteer-led, staffed, or a mix of both

Takeaways will include:

- A board skills audit and recruitment plan that you can use straight away
- Knowledge sharing with environmental groups, North and South
- Discuss challenges and solutions with a network of peers
- Organic opportunities to forge relationships with other organisations

This training is being offered by the CORE Project, which is funded by PEACEPLUS.

[Register here](#)

National Climate Demonstration 2026

Nov 14th

Dublin

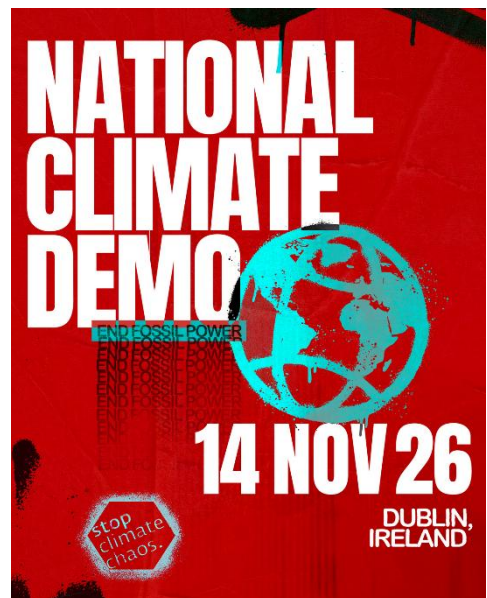
Mark it in your calendar, spread the word to friends and family, and dust off your placards!

Last year, thousands of people took to the streets of Dublin to demand climate action and an end to our dependence on fossil fuels.

This year, we're coming together once again to make our voices heard, organised by [Stop Climate Chaos Ireland](#).

The need for action has never been greater. We have just experienced the the hottest summer on record, and the impacts of climate change are becoming impossible to ignore. Together, we must act to stop climate chaos.

Let's make this year's demonstration bigger and louder than ever!



Announcements

The new season of BirdWatch Ireland's popular In Your Nature podcast is now underway!

It kicked off earlier this month with a special episode all about Irish butterflies, featuring renowned lepidopterist Jesmond Harding, and is essential listening for all nature enthusiasts.

More episodes will be released over the coming weeks, published each Monday, covering topics as diverse as birds nests', the Nature Restoration Plan, peatland perspectives and record-breaking birds.

You can listen to the new episodes, as well all 65 of our previous episodes at <https://birdwatchireland.ie/in-your-nature/> or wherever you get your podcasts.

In Your Nature is hosted by Niall Hatch of BirdWatch Ireland and Ricky Whelan, Biodiversity Officer with Offaly County Council, and is edited by Ann-Marie Kelly. The series is supported by Offaly and Westmeath County Councils, The Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.





Calling all young changemakers and environmentalists! Registration is now open for ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (2026-2027).

At ECO-UNESCO, we believe change starts with action, and no difference is too small.

For over 25 years, we are proud that our YEA programme has supported the ideas, actions, and solutions of young people by providing a platform to develop practical skills, explore collaborative and holistic approaches, and make meaningful contributions to environmental activism. In the long-term, participants will be equipped to serve as role models, inspire peers and younger generations, and contribute to a legacy of environmental stewardship and advocacy.

This youth programme is free and open to young people aged 10 to 18 across the island of Ireland. We welcome group sizes ranging from 2 to 25 participants. The submission deadline for participants project is 12pm on February 4th, 2027, and our showcase and awards ceremony will take place in May 2027.

You can register for our upcoming YEA Programme or find more information on awards categories by [visiting **yea.ie**](https://visiting.yea.ie).

Relove Fashion - Style for a Sustainable World

Teenagers across Ireland are being invited to upcycle unwanted clothes and fabrics into creative, new fashion designs, as the Rediscovery Centre launches the Relove Fashion Competition for its third year nationwide.



The annual competition, which celebrates creativity, repair and reuse, challenges young people to design and create a wearable outfit without buying anything new. From grandad's old shirts and mam's vintage bridesmaid dresses to ripped jeans, torn bedsheets, moth-eaten hats and even old trampoline nets, young people across Ireland can give everyday items a stylish second life through upcycling.

Registration open!

Funding Opportunities

Community Heritage Grant Scheme

An annual grant scheme for community groups and not-for-profit non-governmental organisations to protect, share, and celebrate the heritage that matters to your community.

The 2027 scheme is now open.

[Find out more here](#)



Our Members

Find out who our members are & learn about their crucial work



Find out more about the work of IEN members

The Irish Environmental Network has 34 nationally active members, who work on a wide variety of environmental, biodiversity and sustainability issues.

You can read more about their work, get involved, or sign up to their newsletters to hear directly from them on their websites.

[See all members here](#)