

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

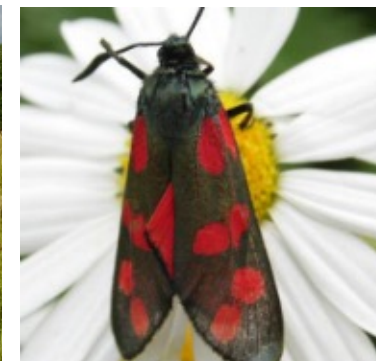
Encouraging biodiversity action across all sectors



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An initiative by
BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD



Dr Úna FitzPatrick
Senior Ecologist, National Biodiversity Data Centre
Chair & Project Manager, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

www.pollinators.ie



Ireland has ~31,500 species living within 117 habitats

- Of those habitats assessed only **9%** are in a good state
- Of those species assessed **17%** are threatened with extinction from Ireland

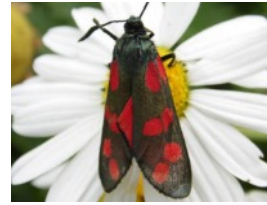
BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS A HUGE PROBLEM



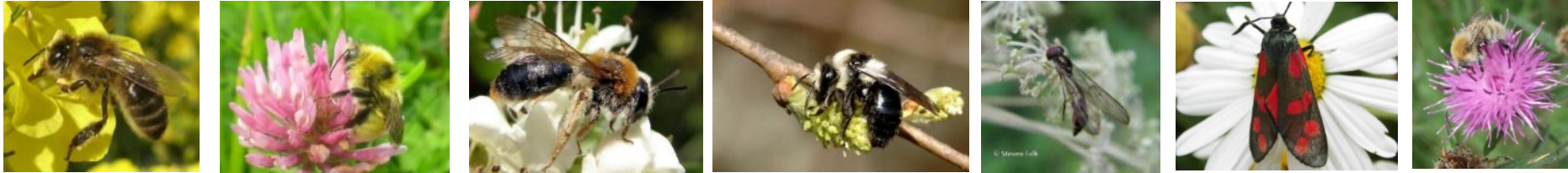
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Identify simple vehicles that can be used to carry the biodiversity message to a very wide audience



Identify simple vehicles that can be used to carry the biodiversity message to a very wide audience



- ✓ Pollinators are an element of biodiversity that people understand & relate to
- ✓ Can be communicated as a clean & simple message
- ✓ Changes can be easily monitored
- ✓ Protecting pollinators has knock-on benefits for biodiversity generally



Economy
& Wealth



Health &
Wellbeing

Wildlife &
Landscape



100 crops provide

90% of the
world's food
71 are pollinated by bees



78% of our wild plants benefit
from insect pollination



More wild bees =
more wild plants



more insects
invertebrates, fruits
& seeds



supports more birds
and mammals

Ireland: value of insect pollination to food
crops is up to **€59 million per year**

Wild plants sustain all other biodiversity, as well as providing
carbon sequestration and flood mitigation services, not to
mention the joy (and health benefits) of places where we
can connect with nature.

The plight of pollinators is typical of many components of our biodiversity

Ireland has **100** bee species

Honeybee



Bumblebees



Solitary bees

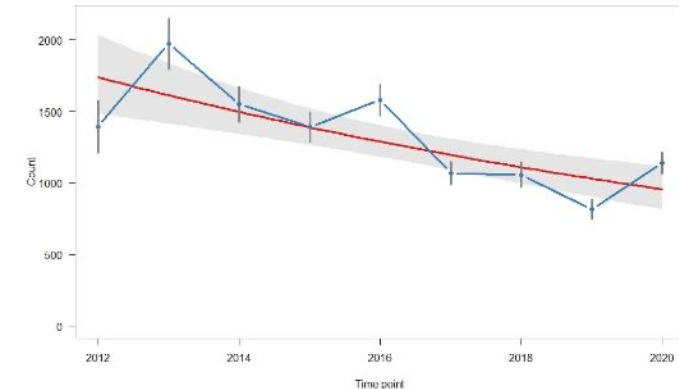


WILD POLLINATORS



One third of our 99 wild bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland

Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme



Abundance of common bumblebees has declined since 2012

The plight of pollinators is typical of many components of our biodiversity

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Honeybee



Bumblebees



Solitary bees

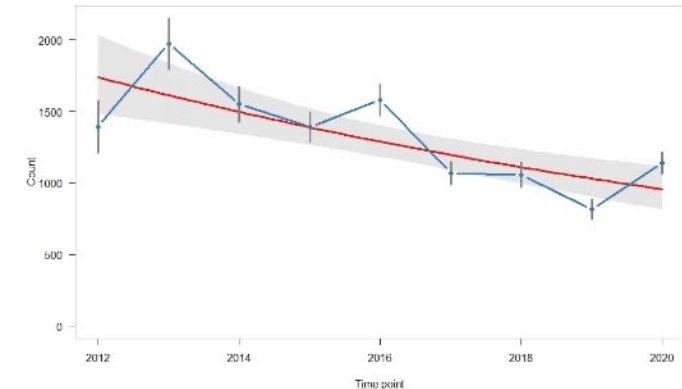


WILD POLLINATORS



One third of our 99 wild bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland

Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme



Abundance of common bumblebees has declined since 2012

Rare species are disappearing through loss of semi-natural habitats & common species are declining in abundance as a consequence of how we manage the rest of the landscape

If there is a problem what do you do?

1. Decide if it's important
2. Critically assess the problem and how serious it is
3. Identify the causes
4. Collectively agree a positive framework to address the problem
5. Identify **evidence-based actions** to help
6. Communicate these properly
7. Develop a partnership driven approach where possible
8. Track progress – is it working?



- ✓ *EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy*
- ✓ *National Biodiversity Action Plan*

Call to action – everyone can help



Call to action – everyone can help



If you want to help it is important to think about how your site can provide **food, shelter & safety**

- ✓ In doing this you help protect biodiversity generally

Solutions should be evidence-based and carefully tailored to the target audience





- ✓ Actions are all evidence-based
- ✓ Relevant sectors feed into development
- ✓ Communication is tailored each time

- ✓ Pollinator friendly actions, each very clearly explained
- ✓ Lots of options
- ✓ All actions are pragmatic & low cost

www.pollinators.ie



Use existing networks/partnerships to encourage implementation and roll out










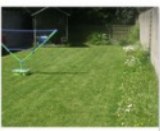









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All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan** is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. The first Plan covered the period 2015-2020 and a new version has been developed for 2021-2025. To see what can be done by each sector, click on the appropriate link below.

 NEW: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	 Progress: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020	 Farmland	 Councils
 Businesses	 Communities	 Sports Clubs	 Transport Corridors
 Schools & Campuses	 Gardens	 Site-specific guidelines	 Helping endangered pollinators
 Faith Communities	 National Initiative Toolkit	 Pollinator Research	

 Add your actions to our map

 Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) Count

 Pledge your garden for pollinators

The Buzz

May Pollinator Plan newsletter
New resources, World Bee Day and a documentary to watch out for. Lots of news in our latest issue [Details](#)

Making Wind Farms pollinator friendly
New guidelines published for pollinator-friendly management of Wind Farms [Details](#)

New All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 launches
A new five-year roadmap that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. [Details](#)

Create a natural wildflower meadow
Don't Mow, Let it Grow! Pollinators don't want you to plant wildflower seed - they want you to allow common wildflowers to grow naturally. Learn how by watching these videos [Details](#)

NEW: Free online interactive course:
Learn to identify our 6 most common bumblebees. There are activities and quizzes to test your progress and get feedback on answers. [Details](#)

What's the Buzz about Bees?



Top Tips for Creating a Wildflower Meadow



Managing Healthy Hedgerows:

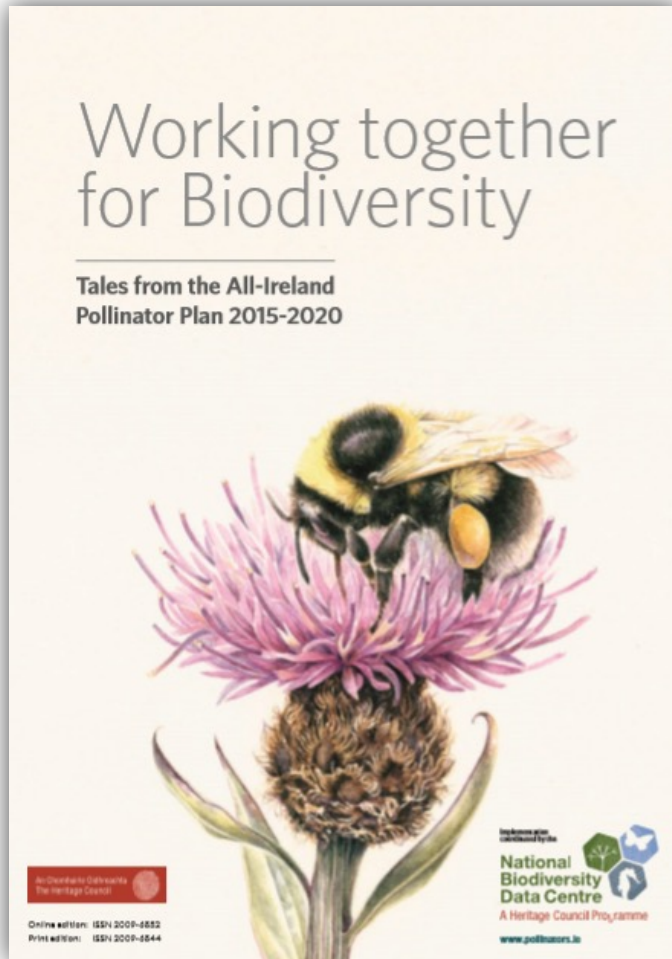


Whereas you can see here: a lot of the hedgerows have a lot of yellows and reds.



ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSES: 2015-

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSSES: 2015-



Reducing pesticide use - Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLR) introduced major changes to grass management across the county, moving towards a pollinator friendly mowing regime. DLR are also the first council to introduce alternatives to chemical pesticides.

Over the last number of years, DLR Parks and Leisure staff have run trials to examine the use of alternative non-chemical weed controls, such as hot water and hot steam. The aim is to reduce the use of chemicals that can impact on nature, including bees and pollinators. There are already a number of housing estates where the use of herbicides is restricted, for example, Marley Grange, Lifford and Kilmoy.

DLR is responsible for weed control on about 300km of roadways in the county. Up to now, as is the case for many other local authorities around the country, the primary method of weed control used on road surfaces is spray application of a herbicidal product. In recent years, the method of application was changed to a targeted application method, rather than a spray method, which aimed to reduce the volume of herbicide used and deliver a more efficient and local environment friendly approach. The product used, Nuvan-200, also reduced health and safety risks to operators by reducing the risks associated with diluting the product before application.



The removal of weeds, using either the hot water techniques, has also been used by the Cleaning Section in many areas of the County, particularly in areas where residents have requested that herbicide not be used, or in small-scale areas requiring weed control.

The Parks Section are also in the process of reducing their use of herbicide on open spaces and are piloting alternative landscape maintenance regimes at a number of sites throughout the County. The intention is to support the reduction and ultimate elimination of use of herbicides in parks and open spaces, while supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Wildflower amenity areas help people and pollinators - Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

At Bally Mee Country Park, the Council worked in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to create a mosaic of habitats to help birds and pollinators. Wildflower meadows are being managed as traditional meadows, with a long flowering season from spring through to autumn to provide a vital food source for our pollinating insects and a variety of native birds.

Funds were created to form a link with the Liffey River, which will improve water quality and benefit aquatic flora and fauna.

Tracy Connolly, Biodiversity Officer, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council



Bulbs for city bees - Dublin County Council

Dublin City Council's Parks Service is brightening up the city's northside with 40,000m² of spring bulbs, 5,000m² of wildflowers, and 100m² of tree and butterfly friendly trees, across a part of a city wide trial, including Artane, Donaghreagh, Chancery, Temple Village, Cabra, Ballymore and Sneyd.

This ongoing work also involved planting over 700,000 bulbs along the main avenue in St. Ann's Park to provide attractive seasonal colour and a source of food for pollinators early in the year. A large-scale wildflower planting scheme was implemented along Malahide Road, one of the main arteries into the city centre, beginning at Clonsilla and covering a distance of five kilometers. A similar scheme runs along the median of the Ballymore Road between Ballymore Village and Sneyd. Some 20 white flowering cherry trees, Prunus pendula, were planted recently in Artane, along Thomond Walk. When mature, they will provide a beautiful cherry walk. Further tree planting took place at Artfield Estate and Sneydville Park. Another 10 trees have been planted on the Stansmeaton Green, Glasnevin Community Green in the north inner city which provided with thousands of



Using art to create awareness of pollinators - Geashill, Co. Offaly

Geashill won the national Pollinator Award in 2017, received a regional award in 2018, and in 2019, Geashill took home the top prize for most pollinator friendly small towns in Ireland. An important part of their success has been in creating awareness of the importance of pollinators and education on actions to help pollinators.

Engaging with the local primary school, Geashill Tidy Towns not only ran workshops, but also created a mural for the school and helped five children to plant their own orchard, 'D'ford orchard'.

'In my Tidy Towns group our theme was bees and we've entered the local Authority Pollinator Awards, do all five and your children will benefit! Your village or town as a living organism will benefit and - most important of all - your pollinators and wildlife will reap the rewards of your labour. And - it's free of cost!'

- Pat Peugh, Geashill Tidy Towns.



A mural depicting butterflies in a Co. Wick National School

- ✓ Education programme with local school children
- ✓ 1,500 native trees planted in village
- ✓ Heritage application in local school



Building a business network for bees - Stonybatler

On the online 'Hubs for Pollinators' mapping system, Stonybatler stands out in Co. Dublin as it has so many bees making pollinator friendly sites. The community in Stonybatler have brought together many different sectors in their community including local businesses, schools and private gardens to try to help pollinators. By connecting with all these other sectors across their local area, the power of the community group's actions are multiplied.

To be 100% bees in Stonybatler have signed up to help pollinators - including 54 gardens, 10 businesses, two headquaters/companies, one school, and three local community sites.

- ✓ 10 business supporters
- ✓ Eliminated pesticide use
- ✓ Community 'working by hand' days

Transforming urban roundabouts into wildlife havens - Emis Tidy Towns

Emis Tidy Towns worked with Emis Municipal District staff to make 80% of the town's roundabouts pollinator-friendly, without implementing planting. The beautiful wildflower meadows are simply a result of reducing mowing and removing cuttings each year to reduce soil fertility.

To ensure public support, the edges of the roundabouts are cut short to make it clear that a purposeful form of management is taking place. Sculptures of bees and butterflies, made from recycled paint cans, were erected on Clonsilla Roundabout to help to show the aims of these wildflower areas.



Roundabout beautifying in Emis in a Dublin National School

Creating a network of pollinator habitats - Irish Wildlife Trust, Laois/Offaly Branch

To support local community and residential groups with the creation and management of new wildflower meadows, the Irish Wildlife Trust Laois/Offaly branch (with funding from Laois Partnership Company and IANRES) purchased meadow maintenance machinery in 2018.

Since then, we have worked with 12 groups, including Tidy Towns groups, GAA clubs, and resident associations on 21 sites (including parks, roadside verges and roundabouts, schools, residential green spaces, and sports grounds) across the two counties. Work has included cutting and mowing the meadow law, harvesting and sowing wildflower seed, and planting pollinator-friendly bulbs (4,800 bulbs). We have also helped the groups with simple interpretation signs on their sites to raise awareness of the work being carried out.



- ✓ supported the creation of 21 meadows, totalling 5 hectares
- ✓ 4,800 pollinator-friendly bulbs planted
- ✓ Interpretative signage and creating awareness

Showcases a small fraction of the thousands of people who made the AIPP a reality between 2015-2020

<https://pollinators.ie/working-together-for-biodiversity>

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSES: 2015-

86% of **Councils** have become partners



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025
COUNCIL PARTNERS: ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
www.pollinators.ie

National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

An Roinn Tithochta, Rialtais Áiríúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

The graphic features the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan logo (a bee on a purple flower) and a smaller version of the Ireland map with council logos, similar to the first image. It includes the title 'All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 COUNCIL PARTNERS: ANNUAL REVIEW 2021' and logos for the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

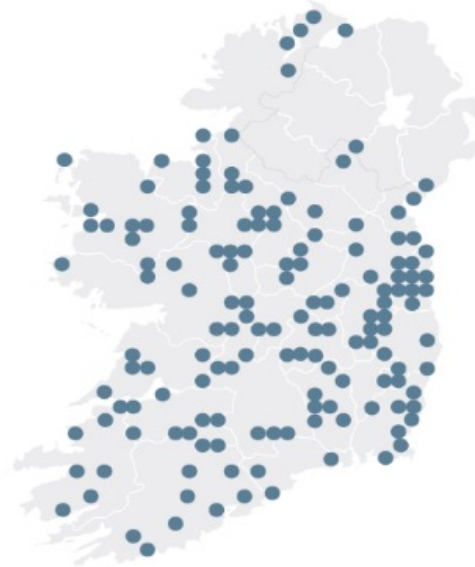
<https://pollinators.ie/councils/council-partners/>

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSES: 2015-

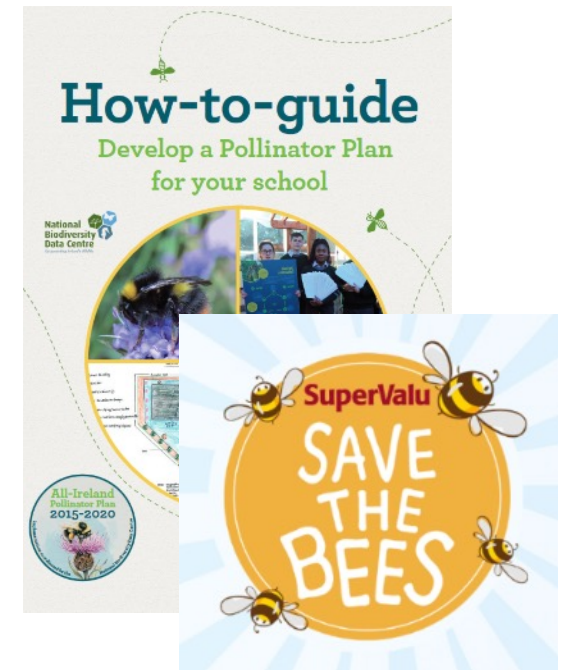
Parks become pollinator friendly through Green Flag award



200+ **local communities** have become pollinator friendly through a special award in the Tidy Towns competition

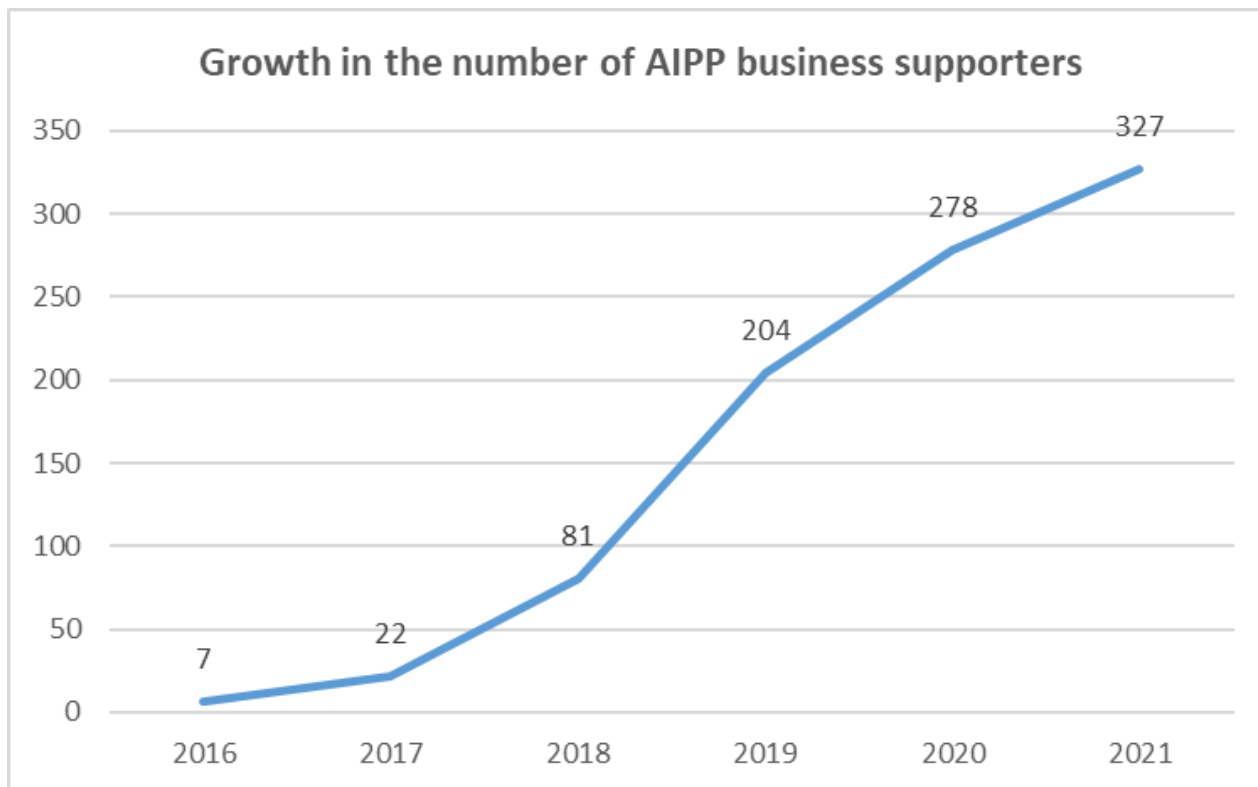


Many **schools** have become pollinator friendly



ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSES: 2015-

Business supporters continue to increase



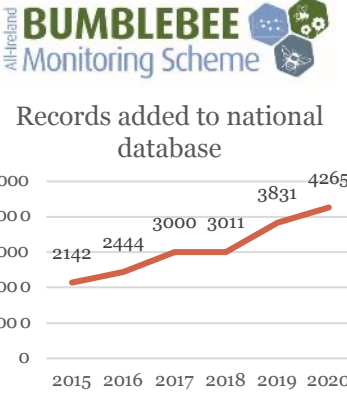
<https://pollinators.ie/businesses/>

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSES: 2015-

2,400+ sites logged as pollinator-friendly



Increasing levels of volunteer recording



Farmland EIP project
2019-2023

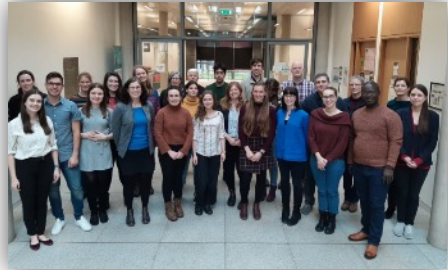
Protecting Farmland Pollinators

eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Irish Pollinator Research Network established
2017

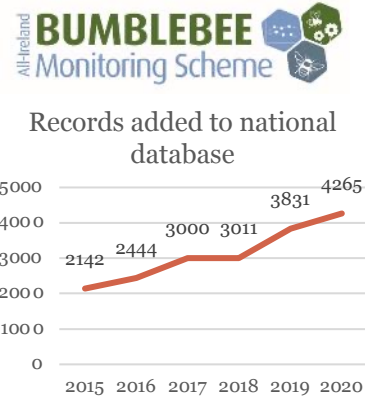


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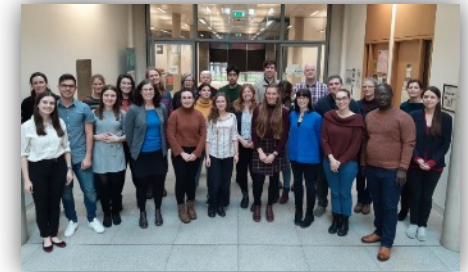
Increasing levels of volunteer **recording**



Farmland EIP project
2019-2023



Irish Pollinator Research Network established
2017



Regarded as a **success story internationally**



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

- ✓ Wanted it to be more ambitious, yet remain realistic





All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



- ✓ Wanted it to be more ambitious, yet remain realistic

Objective 1: Making farmland pollinator friendly

Objective 2: Making public land pollinator friendly

Objective 3: Making private land pollinator friendly

Objective 4: All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy

Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators

Objective 6: Strategic coordination of the Plan

✓ **186** actions

✓ Responsibility shared out between the partners

Implementation is coordinated by
the National Biodiversity Data
Centre



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine





New ideas for 2021-2025

*To build on the first phase
and encourage more land to
be managed for pollinators
and biodiversity*

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



More training; provide more technical advice



Expand to new sectors (e.g., healthcare sites)

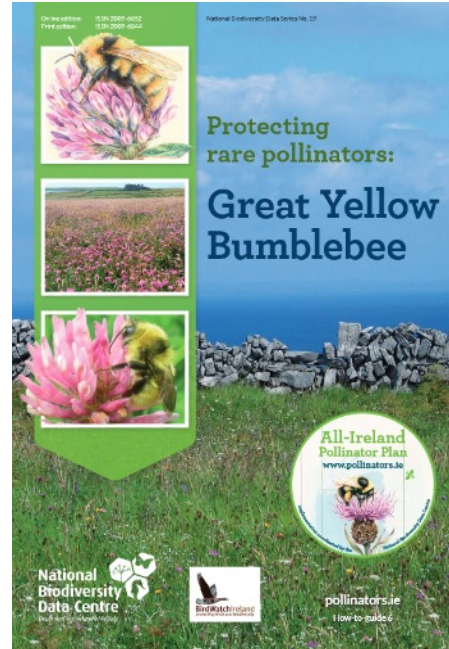


Encourage more ecological corridors

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



Recognise sites that are pesticide free

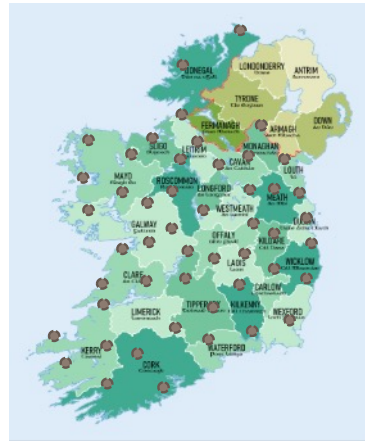


Do more to protect rare pollinators



Establish a **'Wild Bee Way'** to celebrate excellent examples of restored pollinator habitat across the island

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Better track changes; monitor pollinators across a fixed network of 50 sites beginning 2022

Helping pollinators also reduces Carbon emissions - Derry City & Strabane District Council



Derry City & Strabane District Council developed the first Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032 in Northern Ireland. Biodiversity is one of the four key themes within this plan, with a key action to create a Pollinator Plan for council-owned green spaces, aligned to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. In 2020, the Council invested in new equipment to change the grass management regime at key green spaces. This campaign aims to create species-rich grassland on 4% of our estate (28ha). This involves transforming around 50 football pitches' worth of amenity grass to create grasslands rich in native wildflowers. We installed signage at these key green spaces, highlighting the biodiversity benefits of leaving the grass long at these sites, to provide a source of food and habitat for the declining bee population, to help deliver the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We cut and lift long grass in late August and September, when the wildflowers have completed their full cycle and set their seeds for next year. This helps to remove thick grass

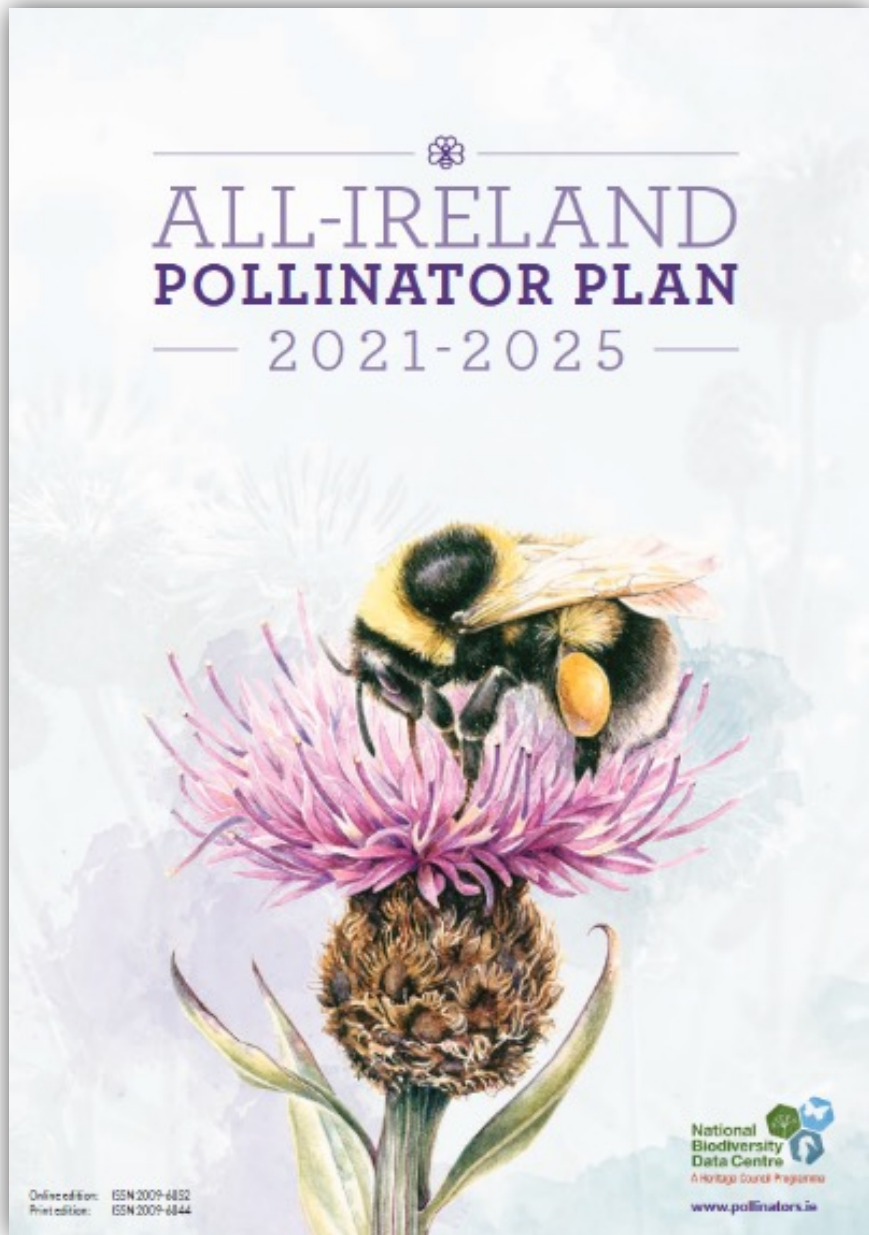
and reduce the fertility to facilitate sustainable species-rich meadows in coming years.

This plan enhances ecological connectivity, contributes towards biodiversity net gain and increases the existing natural capital value of these sites by £6,500/annum. This change prevented 1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions through reduced grass cutting.

To find out more, see www.derrystrabane.com/gi

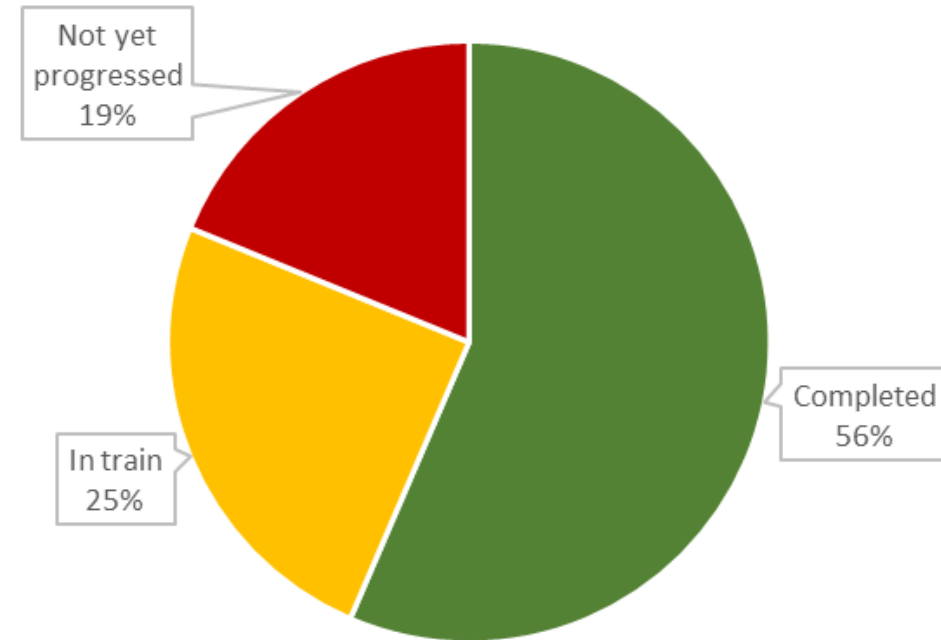
- Dr Christine Doherty, Lead Officer for Green Infrastructure of Derry City & Strabane District Council

Better explain the wider benefits of pollinator actions – particularly to climate and health and wellbeing



All our partners are engaging and helping deliver the new Plan

Status and progress of the 186 actions at the end of year 1





Challenges

Need to fully normalise a better way of managing our whole landscape to permanently support our struggling biodiversity



Challenges

Need to fully normalise a better way of managing our whole landscape to permanently support our struggling biodiversity

Long-term participation with the AIPP needs to be built on:

- ✓ Trust in the experts running the programme
- ✓ Acknowledgement of all the efforts being made
- ✓ Clear demonstrations that the actions we are taking together are making a difference and are having a positive impact



Lots of small actions, taken together, can begin to solve big problems

Thanks to all those who have supported the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan since 2015

National
Biodiversity
Data Centre



A Heritage Council Programme

www.pollinators.ie

pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie

THANK YOU



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



National Parks &
Wildlife Service



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
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