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K-Climate

This eZine is brought to you from Kildare County Council's
Climate Action Office



Highlights in this Issue:

⇒ **Climate Conversation
2022 Survey—Have your
say!**

⇒ **Climate Innovation
Fund Second Call—
Deadline 11th September**

⇒ **Kildare's PPN Climate
Action Weekend**

A quarterly update from the Climate Action Office on external climate and energy-related news, internal updates and happenings from within the council and other resources to support your engagement and learning on climate action.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council's Climate Action Office



1. Update: Landmark Circular Economy Act Signed into Law

In a circular economy, there is an aim to keep materials, components, and products in-use in the economy for as long as possible and to move away from a “take-make-waste” linear model. In July 2022, Ireland took a major step towards becoming a more circular economy by signing the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 into law. Its contents underpin Ireland's shift from a "take-make-waste" linear model to a more sustainable pattern of production and consumption. The legislation introduces several interventions that will directly impact on our everyday lives, including levies and measures that will help citizens shift away from single use packaging with an initial focus on disposable drink cups. Providing good news for the sector, it also paves the way for a national reuse target that will aim to boost sales of secondhand goods.

2. News: Climate Conversations 2022 - 10 Minute Survey!



The Government of Ireland and the National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA) have launched their Climate Conversation 2022 [survey](#). The aim of the National Dialogue on Climate Action is to make the Climate Action Plan accessible to all. In order to do this the NDCA are making sure that they engage with people across all of Ireland, particularly those who are affected by our transition to carbon neutrality. To do this, they have launched a [10-minute survey](#) titled Climate Conversation 2022, so that society can share its views on the government's climate action and how it can support you to take climate action in your own life. Your views will be included in developing the 2022 Climate Action Plan. Deadline for submissions is the 9th September.

3. News: Worst Drought Event in 500 years hitting Europe



Following a long summer of soaring temperatures that have scorched most of Europe, the Global Drought Observatory has stated that [47% of the continent is exhibiting drought warning conditions](#), as soils begin to dry up completely. This is in addition to another 17 % of vegetation being classed as showing signs of stress caused by the recent period of extreme temperatures and shortage of water. The Global Drought Observatory, a research wing of the European Commission has stated that this current drought is the worst that has hit Europe in 500 years. The effects of this period are already forecasted to have a drop in 16% for grain maize, 15% for soybeans and 12% for sunflowers. The forecasted drop in food production is only made more evident, as the recent droughts have once again made the “Hunger Stones” [visible in central Europe's rivers](#). In the past, these stones were used to mark extremely low water levels in rivers to forecast famines. The one pictured to the left are from the Elbe River and were carved in 1616. It states, “If you see me cry.” Last resurfacing in 2018, these stones serve as a reminder of the hardship that these increasingly frequent pattern of extreme heat stress and subsequent droughts will bring as the effects of climate change intensifies.

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4. Updates: Climate Innovation Fund - Awarded Projects

Earlier this year, the Climate Action Office launched its Climate Innovation Fund and in June 2022 three applicants were successfully awarded funding. The projects that were awarded are as follows:

- **Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community:** A community climate app to nudge hyper local sustainable community behaviours through gamification and reward.
- **The Climate Hub:** A project that aims to capture data on traffic types and speeds data that will be used to co-develop active-travel related initiatives / nudging behaviour with the community.
- **Climate Response Ireland:** A project that will develop real time information technology on indoor air quality in residents' homes, highlighting the damage pollution can cause in the home.

The Climate Innovation Fund is reissuing a second call for projects for Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, Naas and Clane-Maynooth. See below for details.

5. News: Climate Innovation Fund Second Call – Deadline 11th September



Kildare County Council has issued a second call for submissions for the remaining Climate Innovation Fund 2022. The 2022 Climate Innovation Fund was launched earlier in the year and has already allocated funding to a number of projects across the county. The second call was launched earlier in August at the Information & Community Networking Night (pictured to the left). The aim of the fund is to foster innovative climate solutions in Kildare. The remaining Climate Innovation 2022 funding is available in the following Municipal Districts: **Athy MD** (€25,000), **Kildare-Newbridge MD** (€25,000), **Naas MD** (€25,000), and **Clane-Maynooth MD** (€18,400). To read more and to apply, please click [here](#). Closing date for application submissions is **Sunday 11th September at 23:59pm**



6. News: Paint the Town Green – New Biodiversity Themed Mural in Maynooth Town

The artist Lisa Keegan has created Kildare's latest climate and biodiversity themed mural, on the Irish Countrywomen's Association's building adjacent to Maynooth's Train Station. The mural, which was supported by Maynooth's Tidy Towns and Kildare County Council, showcases local wildlife embedded in a honeycomb framework and draws inspiration from Maynooth's surroundings. Check it out next time you are in the area!

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7. News: Help Inform Our Sustainability Research – Survey at the Millennium Link Road Naas



Kildare County Council and Maynooth University are working together to research different ways of maintaining public spaces that don't involve pesticides. We are conducting some of these experiments along the Millennium Link Road in Naas. Along both sides of the road from Applegreen to the Caragh Roundabout on the Millennium Link Road, you will walk past our nine plots where we are conducting such experiments. Each site is marked by a number on the ground. If you are around the area, we'd love to hear from the public what method looks the best, while maintaining the surrounding public space. Simply, look for our signs along the road as pictured above and use the QR code to fill out the survey.

8. News: Kildare's Public Participation Network – Climate Action Weekend



This year, Kildare PPN Climate Action Weekend will take place between Friday the 9th of September to Sunday the 11th of September 2022. The Kildare PPN team are hosting an array of events, online and in-person taking place throughout the weekend covering everything from Health and Climate Action to Energy to Sustainability. The weekend aims to share knowledge, educate, and inspire Climate Action in our communities. All events are free of charge for participants, but some events require registration and have limited places available. To register and keep up to date with announcements, please visit their website [here](#).

9. News: National Heritage Week 2022: 13-21st August



National Heritage Week is Ireland's annual celebration of our built, natural, and cultural heritage coordinated by the Heritage Council, Heritage Officers and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. To celebrate National Heritage Week, Kildare hosted a series of events during the week, many of which aligned with themes of sustainability; from learning about the sustainability initiatives taking place in Christian spirituality center Solas Bhríde, exploring the biodiversity present in our native boglands, to guided biodiversity walks and workshops across the county. We hope you had the chance to explore some of your local heritage during the week and beyond!

10. News: Record Recycling Rates in Naas!



Going Plastic Free Ireland launched Kildare's first reverse recycling vending machine earlier this year which is located at a local Dunnes Stores in Naas. The machine facilitates customers to drop off their plastic bottles and aluminium cans which can be exchanged for a 10 cent voucher in Dunnes Stores. This month, Senator Vincent P. Martin, who is the Founder and Chairperson of Going Plastic Free Ireland, announced that the initiative has broken a new record of weekly recyclable material collected in August. [45,000](#) cans and plastic bottles were collected in the new record high, which is a 10,000 weekly increase from previous collections.

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11. News: Sustainable Development Goal Week- 20 – 26th September

Ireland's first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) week is taking place this year from 20 – 26th September. It forms part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) which last year saw 5,440 activities taking place across 28 countries. The SDGs belong to everyone and SDG week is open to all – individuals, groups, schools and colleges, businesses and institutions. If you have an event you would like to register to be part of the SDG Week or simply want to see what's on in your area, please visit their website [here](#).

The Learning Corner



12. News: Wild Isles – David Attenborough Documentary Exploring Britain and Ireland's wildlife

Filmed over 3-years and in 4K, David Attenborough's latest documentary '[Wild Isles](#)' is set to explore the breadth of Ireland and Britain's wildlife. The five-part TV series will explore four key habitats: grassland, woodland, freshwater and marine. Speaking with the [Independent](#), Attenborough states that the "astonishing scenery" and "wildlife spectacles" present in Ireland are matched to anything he's seen on his global travels. The release date for the series is still unconfirmed but is set to air on BBC One soon.

13. Wildlife Quiz: How wild is your garden? – The Wildlife Trust Quiz



Ever wonder how wild your garden really is? Take [this quiz](#) to find out! The Wildlife Trust have developed a short quiz to assess how friendly your garden is for wildlife. It assesses your garden against four criteria; food, shelter, water and connectivity and also measures whether your garden provides any natural solutions to some of the climate and nature issues we are facing.

14. Small Changes – Reusing Old Newspaper



'Small Changes' is a section where we shine a light on what small sustainable changes citizens are making in their daily lives. September's contribution is as follows: "My niece's birthday was a little while ago and instead of buying wrapping paper for her present, I upcycled some old newspaper to wrap the gift. Saves me some money and looks quite well!" Have you made a small change recently? Let coflynn@kildarecoco.ie know and we can share your idea with others!