

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with Local Authorities, public bodies and local communities to protect, maintain and improve the quality of our natural waters.

UPDATE FOR SOUTH EAST REGION

**TIPPERARY,
KILKENNY,
CARLOW, LAOIS,
WEXFORD,
WATERFORD**

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Sign up to our seasonal newsletter at www.catchments.ie

Catchment Catch-up South East Region

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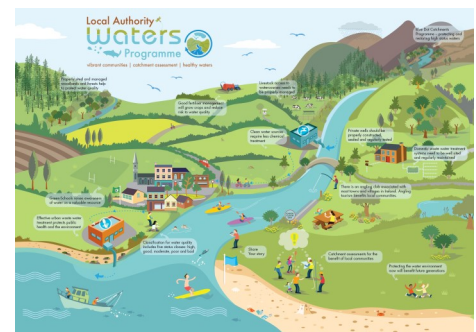
April 2019

Have your say on the implementation of RBMP

Minister Eoghan Murphy has published the draft timetable and work programme for the preparation of Ireland's RBMP for the 3rd WFD Cycle which sets out the process and milestones to be achieved over the next 3 years until the final RBMP is published in December 2021. It also highlights the measures the Department will take to comprehensively engage with the public on the plan and the steps it will take to engage with all stakeholders across the work programme.

An online survey monkey questionnaire aims to determine public opinion on the current RBMP and the level of engagement between the implementing bodies and the stakeholders. It will help to evaluate the success of measures within the current plan for improvement of water quality.

Please take a few moments to have your say: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3Q9VMS7>



Community Information Meetings in Priority Areas For Action

The River Basin Management Plan lists 190 water bodies for targeted water quality improvement actions up to 2021, these are known as 'Priority Areas for Action' (AFAs). Water quality improvements will deliver multiple benefits for: human health, wildlife, and local economies through tourism and sustainable industry. This approach will require ongoing coordination and collaboration between local authorities, state agencies and stakeholders, together with continued public engagement and participation.

The Local Authority Waters Programme will host public meetings in these AFAs to inform local communities and stakeholders of planned activities on water bodies identified for further assessment. These meetings started in November 2018 and will continue over the lifespan of the RBMP. Meeting details will be advertised in local press, radio and on social media and upcoming meetings in the South East region are on the next page.



Every person has a role to play in protecting water quality

HOW

Conserve:

Fix leaky taps to conserve water

Use water butts to capture rainwater for use in the garden

Install hippo bags in toilet cisterns (a red brick would do)
1/3 of water used in our households goes down the toilet

Protect:

NO grease, oil or fats go down the drain (brown waste bag)

Only 3 Ps down go down the toilet (pee, poo, paper)

Check the septic tank regularly and desludge when necessary

Minimise your use of garden chemicals

Buy local foods and do fewer car journeys where possible

WHY:

Water is precious

It takes 140 litres of water to make a cup of coffee (to grow the beans, transport and process them, prepare and make your coffee)

Every day each person in Ireland uses between 80 and 150 litres of water

It takes 1,500 litres of water to make 1 kg of beef (that is four fat hamburgers). That is for the animal to grow, process, transport and package the meat

528,000 disposable coffee cups are discarded in Ireland every day.

*"We do not own this land, we borrow it from our grandchildren",
Ancient Native American saying*

Ongoing activities

Engaging with local communities is vital in improving water quality in our catchments. The SE community meeting for the Dinin AFA, located in Co. Kilkenny, was held on the 8th November. The 45 attendees learned about the Waters and Community Office at the meeting, as well as what the catchment scientists will be doing in their area. This was an opportunity for the catchment scientists to find out information and answer any questions that the public had in relation to water quality and the water environment in the area.

This was followed by a very successful Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP)-led farmer engagement meeting held at the Muckalee Reservoir on the 17th December. A demonstration of the biological sampling that is undertaken by the catchment scientists was held on the day. This allowed the attendees to learn about the bugs (macroinvertebrates) living within their local river. Emma O'Grady (Glanbia, ASSAP) and Deirdre Glynn (Teagasc, ASSAP) presented on the work of ASSAP, and the support and advice that they can provide to the farmers within the AFA. These events allow for an important exchange of information between the community, LAWPRO and ASSAP, increasing everyone's understanding of the AFAs.



"Boots on the Ground" in Priority Areas For Action!

Fieldwork is now well under way in the **Athy AFA** in Co. Kildare. The Catchment Assessment Team, led by Stephen Davis, has been out undertaking kick sampling and stream walks to further understand the condition of the river. Sediment has been identified as a significant issue for water quality within the catchment, with bank erosion prevalent due mostly to over-steepened and over-deepened banks. Stephen, along with Fiona Doolin (Teagasc, ASSAP) has undertaken numerous stream walks along the river channel, identifying pathways for sediment and discussing potential mitigation measures that may be implemented. Following on from this, farm visits have now commenced in the catchment, with Fiona advising farmers on which measures they can implement to reduce sedimentation and where they should be implementing them, thereby getting the right measure in the right place. This is the start of an exciting process for both LAWPRO and ASSAP!

Upcoming events

29th April: AFA Community meeting for the Derreen & Douglas catchment is being held in the Community Café, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow, W91 TX20 at 7:30pm

1st May: Registration for Heritage Week opens including for Water Heritage Day

7th May: AFA Community meeting for the Bannow catchment is being held in Tir Na Nog Wellington Bridge at 7:30pm

21st July: The Fairy Festival, Woodstock, Inistioge, Co Kilkenny

24th August: Iverk Show, Piltown, Co Kilkenny

For further information and on other events around the country please see www.watersandcommunities.ie or www.catchments.ie

Facebook.com/watersandcommunities

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Ann Phelan LAWCO and Michael Nugent LAWSAT at Sustainability Festival April 2019