

# Catchment Catch-up Midlands and Eastern Region

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2019

## Our Mission:

To support communities and work with public agencies and stakeholders to protect and care for the natural waters of Ireland.

**UPDATE FOR THE MIDLANDS AND EASTERN REGION COUNTIES:**  
**DUBLIN,**  
**WICKLOW,**  
**MEATH,**  
**WESTMEATH,**  
**LONGFORD,**  
**OFFALY,**  
**KILDARE.**

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### Further information

**websites:**  
watersandcommunities.ie  
catchments.ie

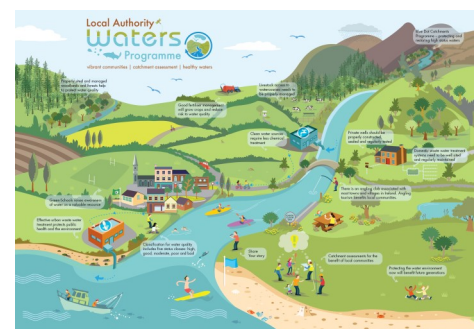
Sign up to our seasonal  
newsletter at  
www.catchments.ie

## 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/3QRVMS7>



## 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' (PAAs). 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 PAAs 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 Midlands and Eastern region are on the next page.



**EVERY PERSON HAS A ROLE TO PLAY  
IN PROTECTING WATER QUALITY**

**WHAT**

**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:**

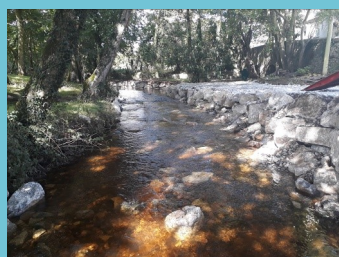
- NO grease, oil or fats go down the drain (brown waste bag)
- Only 3 Ps down go down the toilet (pee, poo, paper)
- Check the septic tank regularly and desludge when necessary
- Minimise your use of garden chemicals
- Buy local foods and do fewer car journeys where possible

**WHY:**

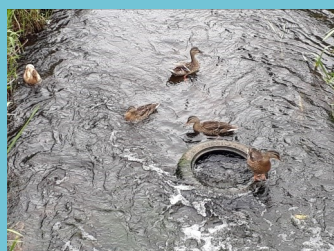
*Water is precious*

- 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 1500 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

**Community Water Fund  
Projects**



Instream works—Silver River, Ballyboy, Co. Offaly



Canal regeneration—Athlone Canal Heritage Group, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

**Ongoing activities**

The Catchment Assessment Team supported by the Community Water officers have been undertaking desk studies and delivering Community Information Meetings in counties Offaly, Westmeath, Wicklow, Kildare, Longford, and Dublin.

The Silver River (Kilcormac) is a priority area for action in Co. Offaly and our first Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme farmers meeting was held on a farm in the catchment on the 20th February 2019. 25 farmers listened to David Webster of the ASSAP team and Joan Martin and Kate Tynan from LA Waters Programme as they discussed local plans and some water quality issues in the catchment. Mr. Webster explained the Source, Pathway, Receptor Model and the various actions farmers can take to improve water quality around the farm. The value of silt traps on the farm was noted as they break the pathway to the river.

At the meeting the LA Waters Programme science team presented macroinvertebrate samples from Cadamstown, where the water quality is good, and compared it to a macroinvertebrate samples taken at Ballynacarrig Bridge, where there is moderate water quality. They pointed out the key sensitive species that were missing in the Ballynacarrig sample. They also discussed how the river supports the croneen trout and white-clawed crayfish. Armed with a scientific understanding of the issues at play, David explained how we hope to improve stakeholder relationships with the aim of agreeing local measures on the ground to improve water quality in a non-enforcement collaborative way.



**Community Water Development Fund 2019 (CWDF)**

The Community Water Development Fund is a new fund, administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme on behalf of the Department. One element of the Community Water Development Fund is an open call. The first open call was issued in 2018 & the second open call was issued in early 2019.

The aim of the Community Water Development Fund is to support communities in progressing water related projects and initiatives, delivering benefits locally whilst also helping to meet the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and the wider EU Water Framework Directive. The objective of the fund is to enable communities to get more involved in the management of their local water environment, delivering multiple benefits for present and future generations. The fund assists in the protection and management of water quality, both locally and in the wider catchment.

In 2019 the CWDF received 150 applications Nationwide, up from 104 in 2018. In the Midlands/East Region 6 applications were received from Westmeath, 5 from Kildare, 6 from Offaly, 7 from Dublin, 4 from Meath & 2 from Longford. All applications are currently under review with results due end of April 2019.

**Upcoming events**

16 April	ASSAP Farmer Meeting Moynalty - Meath	Invitations to be issued by Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine	-
23 April	ASSAP Farmer Meeting Rogerstown Estuary - Fingal	Invitations to be issued by Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine	-
27th April	National Spring Clean Joint Initiative between LAWPro/Offaly County Council/An Taisce and the Communities of Cadamstown, Ballyboy and Kilcormac	Silver River Catchment Co. Offaly	11am
27th April	Dublin Community Clean Up Day	Register and find out more information on clean up venues at <a href="http://www.dublincommunitycleanupday.ie">www.dublincommunitycleanupday.ie</a>	various
8th May	ASSAP Farmer Meeting Lough Rinn Forbes—Longford/Leitrim/Roscommon	Invitations to be issued by Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine	-
16th May	Community Information Meeting Clareen Priority Area for Action, Co. Offaly	Aghancon Community Hall, Aghancon, Co. Offaly, E53 FF67	8pm

For further information and on other events around the country please see

[www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie) or [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)

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