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NEWSLETTER FOR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: DECEMBER 2020

Dear all,

Welcome to the following companies who have agreed to become a business supporter of the AIPP since the end of October: C&J's Animal Park; MOY, Roof Waterproofing System Specialists; Maldron Hotel South Mall; Technopath Clinical Diagnostics and OURganic Gardens. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Dr Úna FitzPatrick

1. To do this month: Take some Willow Cuttings

Willow is a vital food source for bees in spring. At this time of year, you can take hardwood cuttings from existing Willows, creating a new willow plantation at little cost.

Spring is when hunger gaps are most likely to occur

Project: Some trees such as Willow can be planted at no cost by taking hardwood cuttings. In March-April observe Willows in your local area and note which are favoured by bees. Use these plants for hardwood cuttings next winter. To take a hardwood cutting, select vigorous, healthy stems of about pencil thickness, from the current season's growth. Trim to about 20-30cm long and plant in a pot with soil. They will root themselves and can be transplanted the following autumn.



2. To spot this month: Keep an eye out for Winter Bumblebees

The normal lifecycle of most Irish bumblebees ends when the workers and males die off and the newly mated queens hibernate through the cold Winter months. However, in recent years, the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) has been seen foraging during winter months in both Ireland and in southern Britain. It is not known for certain what exactly is causing this. You can help improve our understanding by letting us know if you spot winter-active bumblebees.

Please submit your sightings here:

<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/bumblebees>



3. Business supporters annual review for 2020

We are delighted that we now have more than 270 business supporters of the AIPP. In supporting the Plan, you all agree to take actions to help pollinators. We express our huge thanks to you all. 2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for the business sector, but despite this, companies have continued to sign up as supporters and take action to help. The 2020 annual report outlining actions taken by each business supporter is just complete. Many thanks to all of you who contributed to this in 2020.

You can view it here: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/AIPP-Business-Supporters_Annual-Review_2020.pdf



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Business Supporters Annual Review 2020

Background

An evidence-based guideline document 'Businesses – actions to help pollinators' was published in November 2016. It identifies 15 outdoor space actions and 3 additional actions that businesses can take to help pollinators. It includes a flow chart with approximate effort levels and costs for each action to help businesses decide which is right for them. A Technical Appendix and a planting code for professional landscapers are available on the Pollinator Plan website to supplement these business guidelines.

A framework for business supporters was established in November 2016, following publication of the business guidelines. In becoming a business supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, each company agrees:

1. To carry out at least one pollinator-friendly action within the first year of signing up, and to plan to carry out two additional actions within the following five years.
2. To update the Pollinator Plan Team on the positive pollinator actions planned, implemented or maintained each year when contacted, to help us promote that work.
3. That your business supports the ethos of the Pollinator Plan.

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan offers a framework to support Corporate Social Responsibility objectives, with the flexibility to choose from a variety of low/no cost actions designed to suit every business type. These can be integrated with Environmental Management Systems, such as ISO 14001:2015. Along with the business benefits that come from supporting the Pollinator Plan, registered companies will receive a certificate of participation, as well as support in developing plans to take pollinator-friendly actions within the business. Once businesses have taken pollinator friendly actions, they may also receive recognition for their work by logging their efforts on the publicly available mapping system, 'Actions for Pollinators'. Furthermore, commitment to the plan encourages and increases employee engagement through relevant training and events and improves employee health and wellbeing, as well as supporting community engagement and strengthening relationships with local groups.

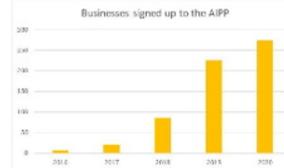
2020 review

Currently, 274 companies of all sizes are supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 (AIPP) across the island of Ireland (as of the end of October). The number of business supporters has increased year on year. This third Annual Review (2020) gives an update of the action each business is taking to support the AIPP inside and outside their buildings, with their employees and within their local communities.

Bord Bia has worked closely with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to support the implementation of the AIPP through Origin Green. Origin Green is Ireland's national food sustainability programme. It is a voluntary programme led by Bord Bia that brings together farmers, food producers, retailers and food service operators with the common goal of sustainable food production. Support of the AIPP offers businesses multiple benefits, such as demonstration of their sustainability credentials and a way of connecting with customers who care about sustainability.

2020 & COVID19

We acknowledge that this has been an incredibly difficult year for the business sector. We appreciate that for many, providing a 2020 update was understandably not possible. We decided to go ahead with this report, but there is no problem whatsoever where an update has not been provided for 2020 (in those cases we have left the 2019 update in place). For many, we know that we can rely on your future support when things hopefully return to normality. A sincere thank you to all the businesses who have been able to provide an update for this Annual Review 2020. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about making small changes, that together will make a difference. The extent to which companies have embraced the Plan and agreed to help, is one of the big positives of the first phase and we thank you all. We especially thank those new companies, that despite COVID, have joined us in 2020. A new Plan is being developed for 2021-2025. The business framework will continue seamlessly from the first Plan into the second and we look forward to engaging with you all over the coming years.



Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Businesses Signed Up	7	14	65	139	49	274

4. GAA Green Clubs

We are delighted to partner with the GAA on Phase 1 of their new Green Club Programme, which includes a biodiversity strand. To support this, we have developed an evidence-based guideline document for how sports clubs can become more pollinator and biodiversity-friendly. It will be launched in January.

<https://www.gaa.ie/news/45-clubs-to-take-part-in-phase-1-of-gaa-green-club-programme/>



Thursday 10 December 2020

45 clubs to take part in Phase 1 of GAA Green Club Programme

5. AIPP Blog Series

Don't forget, we have an AIPP blog series that shares advice and expertise. The latest one provides an overview of some of the excellent activities taking place in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

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

Blog



Some recent case studies on helping pollinators from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

📅 4th December 2020

Since the publication of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2015, local authorities across the island have offered support and adopted pollinator-friendly policies. In addition to training parks staff on actions, reducing mowing, and switching to pollinator-friendly planting, staff in many ... [Continued](#)

6. Thanks to SuperValu

We thank SuperValu, who funded the project officer position in the final year of the first phase of the Pollinator Plan. Thanks to their 2020 support, we have been able to continue to expand our work with schools and local communities.



7. THANK YOU

The first phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2015-2020 has been a huge success and we thank each and every one of you for your support. We have a very full January planned as we will celebrate the successful completion of the first phase and let you see the new and more ambitious version for the next five years. The Business supporters framework will continue seamlessly from the first phase into the second. Through your efforts, you have all made the Pollinator Plan a reality. We thank you for that, and hope that we can continue working together for the next five years to improve things even further for our pollinators and our biodiversity.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.



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