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BUSINESS SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear All

We are delighted to welcome the following companies/organizations as business supporters of the AIPP.

New Business Supporters include:

ESI Technologies, The Belvedere Hotel Dublin, Hotel 7, Teleflex Medical OEM, Clayton Hotel Sligo, Clayton Hotel Galway, and Maldron Hotel Oranmore Galway.

Mapping Actions

Many thanks to all of you who have already mapped your evidence-based actions on '[Actions for Pollinators](#)' - the accountability-mapping portal. To those who have yet to map, please remember it is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for participation in AIPP. N.B. Even if you have limited opportunity to take physical actions, there are lots of communication actions in which you can participate.

Tracking/Monitoring

Thanks too, to all of you who are already tracking and monitoring on your sites through the FIT Count App [Flower-Insect Timed Count \(FIT Count\) » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#) - it's just brilliant to have this data coming through and I'm sure your employees/Green Teams are learning lots! Don't forget 30 September is the end date for any more FIT Counts. So get counting!

Socials & Website - to find out more follow us on: Twitter @PollinatorPlan and Instagram @allirelandpollinatorplan OR visit the website [Latest News » All-](#)

Sarah Kelly

Agri-business Officer

*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), managed by the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*, a Heritage Council programme, actively addresses the time-critical pollinator-biodiversity challenge. It is a shared plan of action for the island now in its sixth year, which builds on the targets within *The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy*, Ireland's *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021* (Objective 4) and is mentioned in Northern Ireland's *Biodiversity Plan to 2020*, to halt and reverse pollinator decline by 2030. It responds to the Irish Government's 2019 Biodiversity Emergency Declaration which happened alongside the Climate Declaration. It is also aligned with Bord Bia's Origin Green programme with reference to 'pollinator actions', and supports members' biodiversity targets.

1. BEE WATCH: Keep an eye out for the Common Carder Bumblebee

By September, many of our bumblebees are thinking about hibernation. One of the last to be spotted is the Common Carder Bumblebee (*Bombus pascuorum*) which still flies into October. Keep an eye out for this very common bumblebee this month. It is variable, and can become bleached in the sun. However, there are no other bumblebees that have all ginger hairs on the thorax, a ginger tail and then some black hairs on the abdomen.

The photograph shows two Common Carder bees on Knapweed.

SUBMIT SIGHTINGS HERE:

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



2. WEBINAR: AGRI-BUSINESS (farmer-suppliers)

Origin Green 'Pathways to Biodiversity' - a Company Viewpoint Webinar

Wednesday 14 September 2022, 1000-1100

[EVENT REGISTRATION HERE](#)

Origin Green, Bord Bia's food sustainability programme, in conjunction with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) will be hosting the next 'Pathways to Biodiversity' webinars. The webinar will focus on how companies are interacting with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and Bord Bia's Origin Green programme to deliver on actions for pollinators as an entry level into biodiversity on any site. The webinar will include three 10-minute 'short talks' from Rachel Nugent - Corporate Responsibility Manager at ALDI Ireland, Marek Pisarczyk - Marketing Manager at McCormack Family Farms and Dr. Saorla Kavanagh, Project Manager with the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*, who will give a brief overview on the ['Protecting Farmland Pollinators'](#) EIP Project.



An initiative by

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

3. IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2022) Business Supporters – Annual Review

To maintain the integrity of the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025* in its new phase, a **mandatory 250-word Annual Review Feedback Report** is now required on the pollinator-biodiversity actions delivered by your business/organization during 2022.

The *National Biodiversity Data Centre* and the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan* team are so grateful for all your amazing and inspiring work on pollinators-biodiversity.

THANK YOU.

- PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK REPORT by completing the 6 short questions in the mandatory [Annual Review Questionnaire](#) and submit to skelly@biodiversityireland.ie by **12 noon on Friday 30 September 2022**.
- As part of this submission, and also mandatory, PLEASE MAP YOUR ACTIONS ON: ['Actions for Pollinators'](#) - data-accountability portal.
- NEW SUPPORTER in 2022? Pre 30 June 2022 please submit the report and map actions. After 1 July 2022 we will register you as a new supporter with name/logo.

NOTE: We will send ONE reminder email. Should your business/organization fail to submit a Feedback Report (including mapped actions) by 30 September 2022 then

AIPP will assume you no longer wish to participate and will remove your business from the Business Supporters list. You may, however, re-engage at any time by emailing skelly@biodiversityireland.ie



**4. TO DO THIS MONTH: help hungry bumblebees on your business site
fatten up for hibernation**

This is the time when pollinator-friendly garden-type plants on your business site can be incredibly important. As native wildflowers wind down for the season, autumn-flowering garden-type plants can provide vital pollen and nectar for bumblebees as they fatten up for hibernation. Business sites, business parks, schools, and gardens can be lifesavers for pollinators at this time of year. Try to make sure you have pollinator-friendly plants where you are. [REVIEW](#) which flowers feed our wild bees in Autumn/Winter. Don't forget more extensive planting choices in our [Pollinator-friendly Planting Code](#).

How do you know if a plant is pollinator friendly?

- Do you see pollinators visiting? When choosing plants at a garden centre, you will quickly spot which flowers insects visit most.
- Choose **single-flowered** varieties or **perennials** (double-flowered or annuals are generally poor sources of pollen and nectar).

See our website for more actions you can take to help pollinators in your garden, business, farm, school or local community.

Season	Plant
Autumn	Rudbeckia
	Heathers
	Eupatorium
	Aster
	Salvia
	Single flowered Dahlia
Winter	Mahonia
	Willow
	Viburnum
	Crocus
	Snowdrop
	Helleborus

5. SEPTEMBER ACTION: Cut your long-flowering meadow

Flower-rich meadows (or mini-meadows) on your business site are a very fragile habitat that require the correct management each year. September is the ideal time to cut AND lift. If you fertilise or mulch grass back in it will enrich the soil and give grasses an advantage over any wildflowers (i.e. competition). Having these meadows even mini-ones is a fantastic action for biodiversity as it is returning a vital species-rich grassland habitat that has been lost in Ireland and which provides food, shelter and safety for our pollinators.

N.B. You may notice some larger organisations may begin cutting large areas a little early before the weather changes and the ground becomes too wet for large machinery. Some flexibility in cutting is fine. More important is that the grass is removed.

[READ](#) or [WATCH TOP TIPS FOR MEADOW CREATION](#)



6. WILD BEES ON YOUR BUSINESS SITE?

Can your employees help increase the number of Flower-Insect Timed Counts

(FIT Counts) for 2022?

Do you or your employees have 10 minutes to spare? This is a great way to (a) help us track changes in our pollinators and (b) check if you're AIPP evidence-based actions are working on your business site(s). The 'How To' is easy. Download the easy-App and watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit. Specific 'counts' from Lavender, Knapweed, or Butterfly Bush would be especially useful this month. The map shows the location of all FIT Counts submitted via the new App so far in 2022.

N.B. FIT Counts are conducted 1 April-30 September each year.

[READ MORE & DOWNLOAD THE EASY APP HERE](#)



7. CAN YOU HELP - by sharing our NEW

'Protecting Rare Pollinators' Guideline (Large Carder Bee)?

The Large Carder Bee (*Bombus muscorum*) is listed as *Vulnerable* in the *European Red List of Bees* (2014) and is showing an ongoing decline in Ireland. In late August, we launched the third guideline in our 'Protecting Rare Pollinators' series. This one identifies how local communities (including businesses) can come together to protect this beautiful Irish bumblebee. We are delighted to have collaborated with Sustainable Skerries on the new guide. Skerries in Co Dublin have been leading the way in demonstrating how a local community can work together and take action. Since they began their efforts in 2019, the bee has already expanded its range within the town. If you know of any locations where the Large Carder Bee occurs, we'd be very grateful if you could share this resource with the local community.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



8. WILD BEE HIGHLIGHTS AROUND THE ISLAND

South Dublin County Council's Pollinator Plan

Meadow forms a large part of South Dublin County Council's Pollinator Plan. They are currently managing 160ha of long flowering meadows as well as lots of short flowering meadows. [READ MORE](#) about their work and challenges.

DID YOU KNOW? A reduce mowing regime is the best and cheapest way to provide food, shelter and safety for our wild bees. [READ MORE HERE](#)

Skerries Wild Bee Festival 2022

Skerries has just celebrated its first three day Wild Bee Festival (26-29 August 2022); a collaboration between Fingal County Council, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and Sustainable Skerries. Festivalgoers learned about the Large Carder Bee (*Bombus muscorum*), a native bumblebee in severe decline across Ireland which is **thriving** in Skerries, as a direct result of the hard-working Sustainable Skerries group delivering AIPP evidence-based actions. Various seminars, workshops and walks provided information on pollinator monitoring and AIPP actions. [READ MORE HERE](#)

'Green Flag for Parks' Competition (Northern Ireland) Pollinator Award Launched

This year saw the very first special Pollinator Award category for parks in this competition. This prize was awarded to parks which had achieved Green Flag status but were ALSO implementing habitat creation and restoration measures for pollinating insects. Congratulations to the two inaugural winners: Castle Park and Walled Garden in Bangor (organisation category), and Clotworthy Courtyard at Antrim Castle Gardens (community category). [READ MORE HERE](#) N.B. *An Taisce* has been supporting a Pollinator Award in the Green Flag for Parks competition in the Republic of Ireland since 2017. Those winners are due to be announced this month.



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