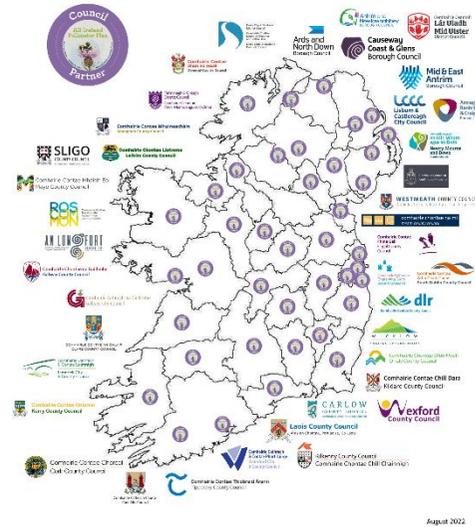


All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



COUNCIL PARTNERS: ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

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This is a report to the National Biodiversity Data Centre on progress with delivery of the actions under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-25

As part of the Council Partner agreement for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, each of the Local Authority or Council partners provide a mandatory short update on their activities in support of the Pollinator Plan each year.

In September 2022, local authorities from across the island of Ireland met to discuss 'How Local Authorities Can Address the Biodiversity Emergency'. This conference, run by Limerick City & County Council and the National Biodiversity Data Centre, aimed to assist local authorities and their key partners in exploring some of the issues, challenges, and opportunities around addressing the biodiversity emergency at the local level.

Local authorities are carrying out significant work to protect biodiversity and pollinators, as reflected in this Annual Review 2022 document. Now in its seventh year, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has gathered support from councils all over the island of Ireland, as well as from over 100 governmental organisations and NGOs, and many thousands of community groups, businesses, farmers, schools, and gardeners.

This report demonstrates some of the incredible work being done by councils to tackle the biodiversity emergency. Each Council is different, as reflected in the varied areas of focus and the wide range of actions reported. The Pollinator Plan advocates prioritising the protection of existing natural and semi-natural habitats, creating natural meadows through reduced mowing, sustainable pollinator-friendly planting, and eliminating pesticide use. This report shows how these actions are becoming more widespread, as more councils embrace this approach and manage their landscapes for the benefit of pollinators. In 2022, two further local authorities became Council Partners to the Pollinator Plan, bringing the total number of Council Partners to 40 of the 42 local authorities on the island of Ireland.

The intention of this report is to showcase the positive work being carried out by councils, and to provide a mechanism for knowledge exchange between them, inviting local authorities to reach out to one another to learn from each other's experiences and expertise.

In the All-Ireland Pollinators Plan 2021-2025, Objective 2 is to make public land more pollinator friendly. Over the course of the next phase, we want to better support our Council Partners by providing more technical advice, more evidence-based resources, more knowledge exchange opportunities, as well as doing more to promote the work that is already being done. Taking action for pollinators benefits wider biodiversity, and contributes positively to climate, green infrastructure and health and wellbeing initiatives. We want to do more to explain these connections and ensure that pollinator-friendly actions taken by Councils are fully recognised for the myriad benefits they bring.

We sincerely thank all our Council partners for their support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2022.

Kate Chandler, National Biodiversity Data Centre



Background

A 16-member steering group provides oversight of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025. The Pollinator Plan is managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and actively addresses a time-critical biodiversity challenge. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is funded by The Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is a programme of The Heritage Council.

Councils can play a leading role in making the island of Ireland a place where pollinators can survive and thrive. Since the launch of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2015, most Councils/Local Authorities have been taking actions to support pollinators on public land in line with the evidence-based guideline document published: [Councils: actions to help pollinators](#). Many Councils also work with local community groups, residents' associations, and schools to help raise awareness of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. To better support these efforts and promote the work being undertaken, a dedicated framework was developed in 2019 to recognise Councils as formal partners of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Council Partners

Partners are those councils who sign the [partnership framework](#) and return it to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. In doing so they commit to carrying out evidence-based actions to support pollinators and to reporting their activities annually. 40 of the 42 Councils across the island of Ireland have now partnered with the Pollinator Plan.

2022 annual review

For each existing council partner, the council's point of contact was asked to provide short bullet point updates on their activities in 2022. They were contacted by email. Where a 2022 update was not provided, this is stated. Where updates are not provided across more than one year, the council will be approached to determine if they will remain as a partner.

Each partner was provided with a template to assist the process. Special thanks to Kilkenny County Council who completed their bullet point updates in advance. These were used as an example of what was required by each council partner. Partners were requested to follow this general format. Wider biodiversity actions, not of direct relevance to pollinators, have not been included.

Councils are listed alphabetically in the 2022 annual review.

Other

Tidy Towns groups are encouraged to create a buzz in their community and enter the Local Authority Pollinator Award in the national Tidy Towns competition. The award, with a €10,000 prize fund, encourages Tidy Towns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions as part of the Tidy Towns competition. The Local Authority Pollinator Award supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of local authorities across the Republic of Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Although it is not mentioned under the respective council updates, many local authorities contribute into this prize fund.

2022 updates provided by Council partners of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Council/ Local Authority name	Date joined as Partners	Key actions taken in support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2022
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council officers offer ongoing advice to schools, community groups, sports clubs and businesses on how to create pollinator friendly green spaces, and have signposted them to relevant funding pots, e.g. the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful ‘School Pollinator Garden’ grants scheme. • Two new sensory gardens have recently opened in Antrim and Hazelbank. Both sites have been planted with pollinator-friendly plants that also appeal to all the senses, and insect hotels have also been installed. • Through the ‘One Million Trees’ campaign, 150,000 native trees have been planted in council and partnership sites. Funding has been secured from DAERA’s Small Woodland Grants Programme to plant approximately 7,000 native trees. Further funding has recently been secured from Woodland Trust’s ‘More Woods’ and ‘More Hedges’ funds for a further 1,750 native trees to be planted in the upcoming season. • A Biodiversity Partnership Group has been set up by Council with the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) and the Northern Ireland housing Executive (NIHE) to ‘rewild’ the Borough with an agreed grassland management approach (i.e. reduce mowing regimes where possible – one cut and lift late in the season) and the display of ‘All-Ireland Pollinator Plan’ signage at relevant sites with all 3 partners’ logos included. • In 2022, 24 Green Flags were awarded within the Borough, including the Green Flag Pollinator Award.

Ards and North Down Borough Council	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area of land managed for pollinators under a reduced mowing regime has increased from the previous reporting period by approximately 9,385m² from 47,800m² to 57,185m². It is expected this will increase significantly in 2022/2023. • In recent years the style of planting within ANDBC Parks has changed to reflect the need for greater biodiversity and sustainability. Since the previous reporting period approximately 400m² of pollinator-friendly shrubs and perennials and 850m² of bulbs have been planted in bedding areas across the Borough bringing the total area of pollinator friendly bedding to 9,250m² • Encouraged residents to think about their local environment and the positive impact they can have on it, through the Ards and North Down 'In Bloom' initiative. Themes of community participation and environmentally sustainable processes attracted participants across a wide demographic. One of the categories of the competition focused solely on 'Gardening for Wildlife', the 2022 winner of this group showcased an impressive wildlife friendly garden with pollinators in mind. • Castle Park and Walled Garden in Bangor was awarded the Green Flag Pollinator Award in 2022, recognising the park's implementation of habitat creation and restoration for pollinating insects. This was achieved in a number of ways including pollinator friendly planting schemes, no mow meadow areas, introducing native hedgerows and native tree planting, eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicide, providing signage on the importance of sites for pollinators, and engaging with the wider community.
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CatchmentCare planted 15,000 native trees along the Blackwater catchment to support pollinators. This included a fenced riparian area to allow wildflowers to thrive. • 15 road verge sites throughout the Borough selected for only one cut and lift per year at the end of the flowering season to encourage pollinators and seed setting. • Wildflower seed brush harvested off species rich grassland was planted on two meadows of approx. 9000m² and seed was supplied to the National Trust for planting a wildflower meadow at Ardress. • The Environmental Education team delivered a series of talks to schools which included the importance of pollinators. • Home for Nature Five sites around Peatlands Park, Maghery Enterprise Centre, Tamnamore, Maghery GAA training pitch, Roadside verge beside Derrylee Orange Hall and Cottage Garden at Peatlands. Brush harvested seed grown up in polytunnels and planted out as wildflower plugs.

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't Mow Let it Grow: The Estates team continue to develop and manage the Don't Mow Let It Grow sites throughout the Borough, managing our grasslands for pollinators. There is currently over 11 hectares for grassland being managed as meadows for pollinators. • DFI partnership: Building on the partnership formed with DFI Roads through the Don't Mow Let it Grow project, the council estates team have entered into an agreement to manage the road verges and roundabouts on the outskirts of Coleraine as short-flowering meadows for pollinators, creating a wildlife corridor around the town. • DFI Roads are creating a new cycle lane on the Coleraine ring road (approximately 1400m). As part of this, DFI is working closely with the council estates team to ensure the metre strip separating the cyclists and the live lane is planted with a pollinator friendly grass mix, including clovers, selfheal, and fine native grasses instead of the usual rye grass. Once this section of cycle path is completed the council estates team will manage this as a meadow benefiting pollinators and creating more habitat as a wildlife corridor that is particularly pollinator friendly. • The council estates team are converting traditional urban flower beds into wildflower pollinator beds in towns and villages throughout the Borough. This is done using our own compost and harvesting seeds at the end of the season to add into the mix for next year. Not only does this provide award-winning pollinator-friendly floral displays ('Best Large Town' Ulster In Bloom winners 2022), but it also saves money and is environmentally friendly. The estates team are continually perfecting and refining their bespoke local seed mix.
Carlow County Council	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow County Council are currently preparing a draft county-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy, which will map priority ecosystems in Carlow, with accompanying policies and objectives for their management, in addition to an urban-focussed pollinator friendly policy. • Low-mow procedures are implemented on approximately 4 acres of grass, and 4 new biodiversity-friendly beds have been established at key locations in the town centre. Three dedicated wildflower areas have been added in our town parks and at Duckett's Grove walled gardens, incorporating strategic planting programmes. • Approximately 50 large mature trees have been planted in Carlow Town Centre.
Clare County Council	February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare County Council, with support from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, helped fund the production of the Soil, Seed and Sustainability video - the first in a series of four films showcasing the Irish Seed Savers organic farm in Scariff, County Clare. Among other things, the video looks at pesticide-free, organic growing techniques, which are beneficial to pollinators. • The Gardening Team maintains green spaces at council corporate buildings. They implemented 'No Mow May' at Áras Contae an Chláir. The aim of this measure was to encourage insect pollinators and plant diversity in line with

		<p>the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and to publicly demonstrate how simple measures can be implemented at a local level to support insects, plants, and nature. Information signage was erected at various locations around the building to raise awareness as to the action and its benefits. The Gardening Team intend to repeat this measure in 2023 and beyond. This grassland management produced a flush of Daisies, Dandelions, Red and White Clover, Selfheal and Bird's-foot trefoil without the need to plant wildflowers as the area had already reduced fertility because of previous cut and lift management. The flowers provided. It is intended to monitor the plant species to track changes in species diversity over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the past three years, the gardening team has been involved in an ongoing review of practices to align recommendations by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Some of the key measures are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on use of herbicides by the gardening team. • Implementing pollinator-friendly perennial planting in place of annual bedding species at appropriate locations. This action will continue to be developed and expanded in future years. • Provide pollinator nesting habitat, such as the recently completed woodland garden at HQ. • Identifying and protecting existing areas for pollinators at HQ and Waterpark House. • Alternating mowing of grassy areas – as set out above and to be further developed in 2023. • The 'Shannon in Bloom' bulb planting initiative across 11 communities in Shannon Municipal District is built on the existing collaborative relationships between the MD Councillors / team serving Shannon MD and the local communities. This project involved planting 60,000 pollinator friendly bulbs and aimed to increase the visual amenity of our settlements while generating a sense of common purpose and increasing community awareness of biodiversity and our natural environment. The project roll-out followed a series of online community focussed biodiversity webinars supported by the Heritage Officer and Rural Development Officer, and complements the Shannon Town 'Green Infrastructure Plan'. • The Ennis Men's Shed have developed an orchard, and planted native trees in autumn 2022. More planting is planned for 2023. Bug hotels and bird boxes have been made in their workshop. • On 16/05/22, Kate Chandler, Communities & Engagement Pollinator Officer with the National Biodiversity Data Centre hosted an online All-Ireland Pollinator Plan workshop with the Tidy Town Groups from West Clare. The Tidy Towns groups in Clare have enthusiastically adopted practices from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for Communities, where Shannon Town for example was recognized with a bronze medal. The group credited their Shannon
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		<p>Biodiversity Action Plan as a guiding document for action and they have planted 3,600 native trees and shrubs as hedgerows in green spaces in the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scariff Community Council working with Clare County Council introduced a rewilding plan for the Scariff Riverside Park to address the hedgerow, the riparian margin habitat along the river and wildflower meadow management. Reducing mowing to two cuts a year (in February and September) allowed wildflowers to grow such as Clover and Dandelion, providing habitat and foraging opportunities for bees and other pollinators. The local community group restored a 500m hedgerow by carefully managing its growth and relocating the new paths to allow the hedge area to return to its natural state. The new hedgerow is a haven for solitary bees and plant life. The reduced cutting regime, less mowing and strimming, has saved on people power and a reduction on consumption of both fuel and volunteer time by as much as 50%. In September the meadow was cut and baled, and it is given to a local farmer for feed or bedding. The results have been a win-win for everyone, but most importantly the environment.
Cork City Council	September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cork City Council continues to increase the number of pollinator friendly plants in the floral displays of the city. 85% (73,160) of all summer bedding was pollinator friendly, and 1,100 pollinator friendly herbaceous perennials were planted in Marina Park. Over 2,000 pollinator friendly trees were planted across the city. • City Council is setting aside more and more areas for wildflower meadows and biodiversity friendly initiatives, and this will continue to increase over the coming years. Some of the locations created in 2022 included Sunvalley Drive (0.9ha), Meelick Park (1ha), Curraheen River Walk (1.5ha), Clashduv Park (1ha). • Cork City Council is working towards the zero use of herbicides in all amenity recreation areas. The Parks and Recreation department introduced a total ban on the use of Glyphosate from January 2022, and are reviewing alternative methods of weed control such as organic herbicides, mechanical and manual methods.
Cork County Council	November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator strips are being provided along new active travel cycleways - Dunkettle to Carrigtwohill (c. 8km). These areas are being actively managed for pollinators. • New pollinator friendly gardens opened within the grounds of Mallow Castle and Park in 2022. Grassland areas in the park are being maintained as meadows. Extensive tree planting has also been undertaken within the town. • Dry grassland portions of the Harpers Island site are managed for pollinators with one cut and lift in the autumn. Two areas of nesting habitat for solitary bees were created in 2022 by scraping back bare earth.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator Plans are being developed and implemented for the towns of Youghal, Cobh, Midleton, Kinsale, Skibbereen, Fermoy, Mitchelstown, Kanturk, Macroom and Bantry. A new Pollinator Plan is in the process of being prepared for Bandon. • Inniscarra Campus (Environment Department Cork County Council) grounds are being managed in accordance with a Pollinator Plan. • Cork County Council provides advice and support to Tidy Towns and Environmental Groups in other towns and villages around the county to support their efforts to implement pollinator friendly management practise.
Derry City & Strabane District Council	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council has maintained the ‘Don’t Mow Let It Grow’ sites from the pilot 11 large public parks to include 23 cemetery sites across the district, creating a nature recovery network of 34 sites (30 hectares of species rich grassland) for pollinators. • Christine Doherty, the council’s Biodiversity Officer, delivered a presentation ‘Natural Capital Benefits of Actions for Pollinators’ at the ‘How Local Authorities can Address the Biodiversity Emergency’ conference in Limerick in September 2022. • The council provides ongoing advice to schools, community groups, sports clubs & businesses on how to create pollinator friendly greenspaces.
Donegal County Council	January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council continue to distribute the Gardening for Biodiversity/ Garraíodóireacht ar son na Bithéagsúlachta, Wildlife in Buildings/ An Dúlra i bhFoirgnimh and All-Ireland Pollinator Plan publications. • Donegal County Council were directly connected in the creation of a 21,600m² buffer zone in an area around the Reelin River on the southwestern edge of the Finn which will be utilised by various flowering bog flora and will be planted with pollinating insect friendly broadleaf trees (with Rowan & Willow making up half of the trees planted.) • Pesticide management and alternatives: Pesticides are potent chemical cocktails that can kill, harm and disorientate pollinators. The council is developing systems for tackling pesticide pollution in watercourses. • In 2022, the OPW-funded Flood Relief Scheme, Unit of Water & Environment Directorate, KPM Soils, Inishowen Rivers Trust and LAWPRO submitted a successful proposal to the Public Service Innovation Fund to advance the 2021 study on organic treatment of Japanese Knotweed and scale it up such that it could be used as a viable alternative to glyphosate-based treatment. This experiment has been successfully delivered at six treatment sites including Letterkenny Town Park. As opposed to leaving bare earth in its wake which is almost devoid of microbial life as would be the case in glyphosate-based treatment, the organic approach leaves a rich environment within the soil in

		<p>which native vegetation can thrive. Furthermore, a fundamental part of the organic approach is to over-plant the treatment site in line with the Miyawaki approach whereby many different plants (from ground cover to trees) are used to create a multi-storey vegetative structure conducive to rapid establishment of a healthy and biodiverse ecosystem ideally suited to pollinators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roads & Transportation Directorate worked with several local community groups in the Glenties Municipal District to make areas along public roads and footpaths pollinator friendly.
Dublin City Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated grass-cutting contract for Dublin City was implemented in May 2022. The new contract includes specific management changes to enable species-rich grassland to grow across the city's roadsides, public verges, riparian zones, riverbanks and park areas managed under contract. Areas of one cut and lift per year and two cuts and lifts per year are included, as well as 'no mow' of areas in May, a two metre 'no mow' boundary along hedgerows and a minimum of 3m for riparian zones. Herbicide use is strictly prohibited under this contract. • Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services continued their Greening the City programme, which in 2022 included the opening of four new parks and converting over 1800 m² of hard landscaped areas to planted areas suitable for pollinators. To date, there has been 16,800 m² of new public open space, 4,500 m² of wildflower areas and 1km of native hedgerow planted in the inner city areas of Dublin. • In addition to existing meadows and planting schemes, the Parks Services planted an additional 600,000 bulbs, as well as numerous fruit trees and other perennial plants suitable for pollinators. • The Dublin City Council Biodiversity Officer promoted the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and initiatives people could undertake for pollinators with over 20 community groups in 2022 and at large outreach events, such as Bloom in the Phoenix Park, St Anne's Park Rose Festival, and Buzzfest in Phibsborough. Numerous copies of the Pollinator Plan as well as planting lists and other All-Ireland Pollinator Plan guidance documents were distributed. • The Dublin City Council Biodiversity Officer liaised with several groups who are working on Local Area Biodiversity Action Plans across the city. These plans feature specific measures for pollinators in line with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, including encouraging people to make their private gardens more pollinator friendly.
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council ran a Biodiversity Seed savers course, with online classes and four field trips for communities and staff. This course highlighted the importance of helping pollinators through seed saving, semi-natural meadows and management of gardens, green spaces, community and residents' gardens for pollinators and biodiversity.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dun Laoghaire Rathdown ran a Biodiversity Seed Harvesting project as part of the council’s Local Soil and Local Seed Project. Two large semi-natural meadows within our parks were harvested sensitively to collect, clean and store our local native seed for use in other projects including the creation of meadow areas as part of an Active Travel project. • Trinity College Dublin conducted a study "A Biodiversity and Social Assessment of Plants, Pollinators, and Park Management Strategies in Dún-Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Urban Parks". The study looked at how consideration into the ways urban parks can be managed to foster greater biodiversity and awareness of biodiversity in these urban spaces. It showed that Areas Managed for Wildlife in DLR using low intensity management practices had the highest richness and abundance of plant and pollinator species. • Council-run monthly biodiversity events, walks and talks include messages regarding our pollinator and insect species. • Peoples Park was opened in the 1880s and since then has been synonymous with colourful bedding displays of annuals throughout the year. In keeping with the council’s policy of encouraging biodiversity parks management our Parks staff changed to plant pollinator friendly plants and to a more sustainable approach to maintenance. This has meant a big change from the practice of rotavating beds twice a year and planting those annuals that the park was so well known for. We follow organic gardening principles – composting leaves and plant materials on site also using coffee grounds from the tearooms. This material is then used on the beds as a mulch/soil conditioner. Only organic fertiliser is used in the park. There is signage up throughout the park on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and we hope to expand this to encourage visitors to follow our example in their own gardens.
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to staff changes at the time of this review, there are no updates from this council for 2022.
Fingal County Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity education across departments including: funding for gardens, and biodiversity projects in schools and communities such as Swords, Huntstown, Sophia Housing Project Donabate, Baleskin Migrant Reception Centre, 6 schools, EAO provides packs of nature and wildlife books to schools. A Forest-Schools programme was part-funded for one school. Composting for Schools Program provides training and facilitates composting of food and landscape cuttings – an important action for managing the cuttings from meadows. 35 schools have already been trained and facilitated in this valuable program. Tree Planting workshops are to be held in December 2022 in 10 schools; EAO

		<p>provided 6 5-week horticulture classes for community groups in the lower socio-economic areas. These included elements of sustainable gardening practices, biodiversity, and pollinators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2020 and 2021 the Council reduced herbicide usage by 30% and we are on track to reduce this further in 2022. The Council is also developing a Pesticide Policy that will identify alternatives to pesticide usage by the Council. • Management of 125 hectares (300 acres) of natural meadows: Hay meadow management within the larger parks and demesnes is ongoing and we are increasing our residential and roadside grass areas which are planted with pollinator bulb mixes. • Mapping of grassland resource: We are working with local community groups and our IT and GIS teams to map areas of grasslands within housing estates that can be managed with longer cut rotations or grazed with sheep or other livestock. • The Skerries Wild Bee Festival was held in August and was organised by Fingal County Council, the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Skerries Tidy Towns. A series of workshops and walks on pollinators were held over the course of the weekend. There was a focus on what can be achieved locally to increase populations of the Large Carder Bee and a lot of Tidy Towns communities along the Fingal coast have begun work on the creation of a pollinator corridor, including seed collection, propagation and planting.
Galway City Council	May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parks Department have established 46 acres of No Mow area on public lands in Galway City including parks, estates and open spaces. The council procured a flail collector in 2022 specifically to facilitate the harvesting of long-flowering meadows and have developed a maintenance strategy and public engagement process to manage these areas. The green waste is currently distributed to community gardens as green manure and the remainder is composted. • The Environmental Awareness Officer organised a gardening competition for homeowners in the city. Points were given for biodiversity friendly actions taken in their gardens, including pollinator friendly planting. A presentation on how to manage a ‘no mow’ area in your garden was given at the awards ceremony to inspire and encourage gardeners to reduce their grass cutting regime and to provide food and shelter to pollinating insects. • The Parks Department Staff delivered 687 native trees (of varying size) to different residents’ associations, schools and voluntary and community organisations across the city. Species included Birch, Alder, Oak, Mountain Ash and Crab Apple.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council has planted 4716m² of spring bulbs since 2021. After flowering, the areas of bulb planting are managed as No Mow areas for the remainder of the season, with one cut in September or October. • The Parks Department staff have planted and maintain perennial planting in the borders and raised beds in Eyre Square Park, Quincentennial Park, O’Sullivan Park Mervue & the Children’s Millennium Park. Pollinator friendly planting also include native Hawthorn hedgerow planting. The parks Department have significantly reduced the use of pesticides in the parks over the last three years, and have trialled alternative methods of weed removal. • The Parks Department ensure that all Planning applications made to the Council comply with our policy to implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and that landscape plans include planting schedules which provide a high percentage (75%) of plants recommended by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. This number should include a minimum of 35% herbaceous perennials in the mix, a generous portion of which should be suited to spring and late autumn flowering to support pollinators early and late in the season.
Galway County Council	October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Working With Nature” Workshop Series: These workshops were developed to raise awareness of the impacts of herbicides and pesticides, in the terrestrial and aquatic environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Weed or wildflower’, Letterfrack (Kay Synott, Living Gardens): An illustrated talk on appreciation of wildflowers followed by a practical plant ID and natural weeding demonstration. • ‘Pots for Pollinators’, Letterfrack (Kay Synott, Living Gardens): A practical community workshop on sustainable container planting for pollinators • ‘Create a pollinator plan for your open space’, Ballinasloe (Janet Laffey, Green Sod Ireland & Kay Synott, Living Gardens): An illustrated talk on pollinators and wildflowers followed by a practical workshop on creating a pollinator plan. • ‘Weed or Wildflower’ swatch. As part of the ‘Working With Nature’ workshop series, a bilingual ‘Weed or Wildflower’ swatch by horticulturist, Kay Synott, was published and is currently being distributed to groups around the county such as Tidy Town volunteers and Community Gardens. This swatch provides information on how various wildflowers support pollinators and other wildlife. It also gives practical details on how to control the plant in a herbicide-free manner, should the need arise. • Staff training is key to changing work practices and ensuring that Galway County Council continue to build on the positive steps it is taking to protect pollinators and enhance their habitats. This year, training was delivered in-person, over two half-days. It looked at habitat management, invasive alien species, protected areas and legislation.

		<p>All sections of the council had members engage with this training, delivered by ecologist, Sheila Murphy, Beo Ecology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Districts Continuing on last year's development of the Biodiversity and Pollinator Plan for the Tuam Municipal District, the remaining four districts of the county had plans developed to reflect their unique habitats, biodiversity, opportunities, and pressures. These plans will run until 2027, in line with the National Biodiversity Plan.
Kerry County Council	June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator Friendly Planting – the newly opened North Kerry Greenway (Abbeyfeale to Listowel) and the Fenit-Tralee Greenways will include pollinator friendly planning into landscaping tenders being prepared for both schemes. The projects will include a commitment to the principles of the Pollinator Friendly Management of Transport Corridors. • Killarney Municipal District continued to support the management of public green spaces with a pollinator friendly mowing regime. The spaces located through the town and environs, are marked by All-Ireland Pollinator Plan signage. • Tralee Municipal District continued to support the management of public green spaces with a pollinator friendly mowing regime – including lands along the O Bracker Regan Road in Tralee town and Tralee town park. Again, spaces are marked by All-Ireland Pollinator Plan signage. • Tralee Municipal District – an urban regeneration site in Tralee town (Island of Geese), under phase 1 of the regeneration scheme, has undertaken pollinator friendly landscaping throughout the site located close to the town centre. The regeneration project, which is now subject to an application for development under Part 8 of the planning and development act, will continue to support pollinator friendly landscaping and other biodiversity initiatives.
Kildare County Council	February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Biodiversity Action Plans prepared for towns and villages with actions for pollinators included • Included references to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Athy LAP. • Include conditions on planning applications to encourage pollinator friendly planting, retention of hedgerows and method of controlling grass cutting. • Relevant pollinator resources are circulated to community groups • Supported Maynooth University project looking at reduced grazing methods. • Green Kilometre Scheme continues to expand with a focus on retention of verge vegetation.

Kilkenny County Council	February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge your Garden for Pollinators Campaign: The Heritage Office ran an awareness campaign (1st-14th April) encouraging people to pledge their gardens for pollinators. It included 180 adverts on 3 radio stations; half-page adverts in 2 newspapers; and a social media campaign; advice packs posted to gardening clubs and gardeners. All co-funded by the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan Programme • Pollinators and Climate Action – webinar series: The Kilkenny Heritage Office jointly ran a series of 4 webinars about local authority heritage projects which support climate action and delivered a presentation on the Kilkenny Pollinator Programme and the role it plays in supporting climate action. • The Environmental Awareness Office commissioned biodiversity and pollinator workshops with St. John's Senior School and Castlecomer Community School in April/May; and with 6 primary schools and 1 secondary school in Autumn 2022/Spring 2023, co-funded with the Heritage Office. • Municipal Districts: The Municipal District of Piltown undertook pollinator actions in the development of the Poulanassy Waterfall Car Park and Visitor Trail, including planting over 700 native trees (such as hazel, alder, elder, willow) and 215m of double hedgerow comprising approximately 600 plants comprising goat willow, holly, hawthorn and blackthorn. The Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown reduced mowing at Abbey Meadows and Moat Field Callan comprising 2 meadows (c. 12 acres), cut once/year in August/September. Municipal District of Kilkenny planted and maintained 7 roundabouts on the ring road with pollinator friendly planting. • The Parks Department and staff at Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum maintain pollinator friendly planting at the Winter Garden, Upper Terrace and Walled Garden, Woodstock. The newly developed Waterfall Loop Walk was planted with native pollinator friendly shrubs after the removal of the invasive Cherry Laurel. This will help suppress the regrowth of the Laurel and also provide a vital source of food, particularly in spring when bees emerge from hibernation. They have reduced the use of pesticides in Woodstock by up to 80% over the last 3 years and changed the way they are applied to benefit bees and insects by only spraying early morning when they are not active and trying to spray when weeds are at early stages of growth before they begin to flower and attract bees.
Laois County Council	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Districts: The Municipal District of Portarlinton/Graigucullen undertook pollinator actions in the development of a project on Link Road, Portarlinton. The project was funded by TVRS and in collaboration with Portarlinton Tidy Towns included planting over 22 well developed pollinator friendly Lime trees (<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'), and over 207m of hedgerow comprising approximately 830 plants (e.g. holly, hazel, guelder rose, hawthorn and blackthorn). This project also included the planting of 65m² areas of pollinator friendly flower bed mixes. The area office also planted a wildflower area along the Portlaoise Road when exiting the town. In Emo the

		<p>area office arranged for the replanting of the Gandon Roundabout with pollinator-friendly plants in association with a local sponsor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinators and Climate Action –Two videos on Laois pollinator actions were recorded as part of the Climate Action Video Series: on the Pollinator Plan and a case study of Mountrath Amenity park. These will be circulated on social media and to other local authorities as case studies. The Laois Heritage Office jointly ran a series of 4 webinars about local authority heritage projects which included information on pollinators and climate action. • Pollinators Radio Campaign: The Heritage Office ran an awareness campaign (Feb – Dec 2022) encouraging people to take action for pollinators and biodiversity in their gardens. This involved a total of 1,010 30 second adverts on Midlands 103 local radio stations and a parallel social media campaign This action was supported by the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. • Gardening for Biodiversity Book and Colouring book – 5,000 copies distributed free of charge. Gardening for Biodiversity book published in Irish and distributed to schools and libraries as well as online, supported by the National Biodiversity Action Plan.
Leitrim County Council	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Biodiversity/Pollinator Action Plans were produced for six communities across Co. Leitrim. The purpose of the Community Biodiversity/Pollinator Action Plans was to set out appropriate locally based actions for the conservation, management and/or enhancement of habitats for the benefit of native species. The six communities were: Carrigallen, Cloone, Fenagh, Kinlough, Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon. • A Biodiversity Walk and Talk was delivered in Carrick-on-Shannon during Heritage Week, on 21/08/22 which focused on biodiversity and pollinators.
Limerick City & County Council	February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pollinator plan landscaping conditions included in planning applications and in particular housing applications. This is on-going with Development Management section in Planning. ○ Analysis of incoming landscaping proposals in planning applications to ensure that the contain pollinator friendly measures and species. • Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The council ran the ‘How Local Authorities can Address the Biodiversity Conference’ in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, which included key pollinator talks. ○ Supply of early pollinating bulbs to the Hunt Museum Community Garden. ○ Ran two Sustainable Gardening Courses which included focus on pollinators and one seed saving workshop with Irish Seed Savers

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council managed Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New pollen patch in the Newcastlewest Library - planting based on the EGLA Pollen Patch at Limerick City and County Council's Merchants Quay Offices ○ Let it Bee/ Don't Mow let it grow campaigns increased the areas maintained under an alternative grass mowing regime ○ Three sponsored biodiversity friendly planting roundabout schemes planted in 2022 ○ Increased emphasis on pollinator friendly planting year on year ○ Arts Office sponsored a project with Limerick Civic Trust to plant twenty apple trees in Limerick City • Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limerick Going for Gold Competition has a Limerick Bee Friendly in Bloom Category to encourage Tidy Towns and residential groups to continue to move their focus on to perennial pollinator planting over annual summer planting, which has less biodiversity value.
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council received the Green Flag Pollinator Award for Billy Neill MBE Country Park for our achievements of managing the site for pollinators. The Council continues to add planting schemes within this site to be managed for wildlife. • Increasing on the number of wildflower areas within council sites and school grounds. These include McIlroy Park (8.6ha), reduced grass cutting to one cut this year to allow natural wildflowers to grow within the site. Areas within Glenmore Parkland Trail was sown with wildflowers with pupils from St Colmans primary school, Lisburn. • The Big Tree Project – The Lisburn and Castlereagh Parks and Amenities Team has sown 75,000 native tree seeds to date and aims to produce a total of 250,000 native trees over the next 3 years. A significant number of trees produced will be planted within the beautiful parks and open spaces across the council area, but also in other unused areas too such as old landfill sites. Whilst increasing the planting of native flowering trees as an important food source for pollinators, the Parks and Amenities Team will also address supply chain issues by producing native trees. These will be planted across Northern Ireland and the Council will work with various partner organisations in the delivery of this project. • Raising awareness- attending events such as Hillsborough Honey Fair, Park life, school projects, and community engagements, giving out the pollinator booklets and bee ID sheets from the pollinator website. Also Promoting on social media, World Bee Day and using the pollinator signage for areas managed for wildlife. • Giving schools pollinator friendly bulbs (recommended by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website) to educate on how to make green spaces pollinator friendly.

<p>Longford County Council</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted a native apple orchard in the Biodiversity Garden in the Mall Park, Longford. • Pollinator friendly planting along N4 Bypass: The Environmental Awareness Officer organised for the planting of 100 Spindle, 100 Dog Rose and 100 Guelder Rose along two bare walls on the N4 Bypass at the Red Cow roundabout to compliment works carried out there over the last two years. • Biodiversity & Pollinator Workshop: Longford County Council Heritage Officer and Edgeworthstown District Development organised for Aoife Munn to give a one-day course on Sustainable Gardening and Planting for Pollinators. This was oversubscribed and more workshops are planned for 2023. • Mini Orchard Project in conjunction with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: Newtownforbes Tidy Towns Group were chosen to work with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on the planting of 10 mini orchards around the village. The planting consisted of 5 trees (3 apple, 1 pear, 1 plum) planted at each location. In total 50 trees were planted around the village through this initiative. • Dromard Flower Show: The Environmental Awareness Officer was invited to speak about Biodiversity and Pollinator projects across the county at the Dromard Flower show in May. Information leaflets and booklets were handed out to all who attended. • Pollinator talks to Schools and community groups – A series of talks were conducted with schools and community groups during 2022 on the importance of pollinators and on how to create pollinator friendly habitats. • Farm Talks: Longford County Council environmental section conducted a series of talks with over 700 farmers from across the county as part of the new Acres course. Topics such as eliminating or greatly reducing herbicides and pesticides on farms, making room for pollinators and allowing biodiversity to flourish were all discussed.
<p>Louth County Council</p>	<p>July 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Support Section offer a number of different supports to our Tidy Towns groups throughout the year. For 2023, we are purchasing a number of natural and important pollinator friendly products to provide our groups with. We are in the process of replacing our single use-plastic promotional products with items such as bee boxes, different sized wooden planters and a variety of biodiversity friendly seeds along with planting advice. • In March 2022, the Community Support Section took part in National Tree Week in conjunction with Coillte. We arranged the delivery of and collection of 300 trees (native Irish saplings) to our Tidy Towns groups and we also provided a “How to plant a tree” leaflet. • Planted pollinator-friendly single-flowering Dahlia bulbs for summer colour. • Left areas of natural weeds which are beneficial to pollinators uncut along hedgerows where possible. • Large parts of grass areas cut once a year to allow for natural vegetation.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in chemical applications and using a Pelargonic Acid which is of plant origin to help in the destruction of weeds on footpaths and margins. • Allowed wildflowers such as Yarrow and Birds foot trefoil to grow amongst the borders
Mayo County Council	June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed collecting workshop held with St Pauls National School, Cloggernaugh. • Biodiversity and Pollinator workshop held in MacHale Park for all GAA clubs in Mayo. Biodiversity Plan prepared for MacHale Park GAA Campus, which can be used as a template for other clubs to prepare biodiversity plans for their grounds. • Native hedgerow planted at Raheens Wood, Castlebar. • Funding provided to community groups under Mayo County Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme to carry out pollinator friendly projects. • Pollinator resources circulated to community groups. • Pollinator friendly management of public open space in new residential developments included as an objective in the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028.
Meath County Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Districts/Facilities – Trim MD in partnership with Trim Tidy Towns developed a Local Biodiversity Action Plan which identified key projects which will be delivered including Trim Meadows (large scale pollinator friendly grassland management system) and Eco Estates (a pilot project of 8 residents' associations to make housing estates more pollinator friendly) and over 30 sites where pollinator friendly actions were being undertaken on council lands were mapped on the Action for Pollinators online mapping system. The grassland management regime of the Porch Fields (Trim) was changed to encourage the establishment of wildflower meadows. • Sustainable and pollinator friendly gardening course – The Heritage Office organised a course that took place across 16/06 and 23/06 2022. This aim of the course was to give attendees the tools to put the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan into practice to improve their area to benefit wildlife and pollinators. Pollinator Resources were distributed to communities and libraries including signage for pollinators to Tidy Town groups. • Hill of Lloyd Pollinator Project – The Kells Municipal District prepared a grassland management plan to manage 6 hectares of publicly owned grassland in accordance with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Supported by the Meath County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021. • Biodiversity Gardens for Schools – Our Environment Department have funded the creation of 8 biodiversity gardens for schools which include the pollinator friendly planting and in addition distributed 5,000 native trees saplings to Tidy Towns and community groups.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-funded research on alternatives to herbicides for public open spaces: The Climate Action Team collaborated with Kildare County Council, other local authorities and Maynooth University to fund a 6-year research project to assess alternatives to herbicide use in amenity public open spaces
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to staff changes at the time of this review, there are no updates from this council for 2022.
Mid Ulster District Council	April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Mid Ulster District Council had already been undertaking initiatives to make Mid Ulster more pollinator friendly, we were delighted to become an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner in 2022. Since the partnership, some of the actions undertaken include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to create at least 5 meadows (one cut & lift per year): Mid Ulster had some sites managed for pollinators through ‘Don’t Mow, Let it Grow’ (one cut & lift per year). In 2022, three new meadows were added to the suite of sites under this management, with a further two identified to be added in 2023. Mid Ulster council now have fourteen sites (ranging from 0.1 hectares to 1.1 hectares) totalling approximately 6 hectares actively managed for pollinators. It is anticipated the number of sites will continue to increase over the coming years. • Put up signage to identify pollinator friendly habitats on council land: All current fourteen council sites have had signage installed this year, identifying the areas as being managed for pollinators. • Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to take action to protect them: Four workshops were delivered to youth groups, gardening clubs and the general public. These workshops explain the benefits of pollinators, encourage participants to grow pollinator friendly plants, explain how to provide areas for pollinators to make their own ‘natural’ homes, and a practical demonstration on making solitary bee homes. Where resources allow, participants make their own bee home which they take away with them to put up in their own garden/allotment/etc. • For new works, ensure 75% of ornamental planting is pollinator friendly: This activity had been identified as one of the actions to be developed and implemented from year 2 of the partnership. However, for one capital project site (in Coalisland) the ornamental planting was selected so a minimum of 75% is pollinator friendly. This will be considered for all future capital projects and where possible, incorporated were suitable. • Install a bee hotel – or several smaller bee homes: Several sites have had a few smaller bee homes installed. This activity had been identified as one of the priorities for years 2-5, so this will be developed further next year.
Monaghan County Council	June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monaghan County Council continues to work on the roll-out of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan across all its services and council area. Notable in 2022 has been the purchase of specialist vegetation cutting equipment, funded with the support of the Local Biodiversity Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This

		<p>enables the maintenance of verges and other meadows in six-week or longer cutting regimes, promoting the natural growth of flowering species that benefit wild pollinators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional areas that had traditional ornamental planting have been converted to pollinator friendly species, particularly in Monaghan town high traffic areas. • Education work has continued, especially in conjunction with primary schools. Bee and pollinator workshops were held in schools in the Castleblayney area using Heritage in Schools registered experts during Biodiversity Week. • A media campaign on the regional radio stations, supported through the Heritage Plan fund, encouraged the retention of wild areas in gardens, and flowering hedgerows to feed pollinators especially in the hard periods such as early spring and late autumn. A video was produced and shown for three months on Mart TV at the local mart about hedgerows on farms, and their role for wildlife, shelter and including pollinators.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Biodiversity Enhancement theme funding: In the 2022 financial assistance funding call, 5 local groups were funded to make improvements for biodiversity in their own areas, all of which included planting native trees and flowers for pollinators. • Rewilding roadside verges and roundabouts: Council is working with DFI Roads on several sites across the district to rewild and improve for pollinators. Works include planting trees and other plants that are beneficial to pollinators. • A new Grillo mower was purchased with funding from the Environment fund to allow Grounds Maintenance staff to manage meadow areas created. • The Biodiversity Officer has provided advice to schools, community groups, sports clubs & businesses on how to create pollinator friendly greenspaces. She also assisted with the creation of a wildflower bank at Beleeks GAC as part of their Rural Community Pollinator Grant project. • Raise awareness of pollinators: The Council biodiversity officer raises awareness of the importance of pollinators through public events and by using social media and other media outlets.
Offaly County Council	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan for Syngefield Demesne – The Council is developing a management plan for 8 hectares at Syngefield Demesne in the Birr Municipal District to see how best to support pollinators and biodiversity through planting of shelter belts, hedgerows and grassland management. Funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. • Tullamore Wetland Project – The Environmental section is developing a Tullamore Integrated Wetlands area in Tullamore town with planting at the site aligned to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan • Midlands 103 – working with Laois and Westmeath County Council we continued our pollinator infomercial series on Midlands 103. Funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided free pollinator resources - The Heritage Office supplied the various AIPP pollinator guidance documents to Tidy Towns groups, schools, water treatment plants etc along with distributing the Gardening for Wildlife Publication • A Bulb for a Bulb Campaign – The Environmental section is running a campaign of pollinator friendly bulbs for an old electric bulb. • Management of Graveyards - Cut and lift introduced and continued at a number of medieval burial grounds in Offaly, Lyncally, Drumcullen, Birr Workhouse, Croghan, Ardan and Bully’s Acre in Birr. Commenced 3-year programme under Just Transition with Laois to look at pollination management of three graveyards in each county. Environment Section is managing cut and lift in sections of modern burial grounds.
Roscommon County Council	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boyle Council Offices - Dandelions in grass area at back of office allowed to flower before first cut. An identified area on Elphin/ Strokestown road (R368) was maintained as an earth bank for solitary bees. • Locations identified and managed for pollinators include two strips of long grass areas in the open space beside Monksland Civic Centre. Reduced mowing in three sections of Rathcroghan car park. The Lough Road, Roscommon town – north verge, Boyle Road in Roscommon town section of east verge & Boyle Road Roundabout in Roscommon town managed with a 6-week mow along whole verge. In Hawthorn Drive in Roscommon town – there is a 6-week mow along length of Astro pitch and green (6m wide). 6-week mow along grass on near side of hedge (3m wide.) Pollinator signage used. Ballindrimley Road in Castlerea - An area 20m x 30m is now on a 6-week mowing regime. Leitrim Road, Castlerea – a 2m wide strip about 300m long managed by cut and lift once a year. • A section of the grass area by Boyle Celtic Grounds; two areas of the graveyard at the Douglas Hyde Gallery; two areas of the Rathcroghan car park and an area at the Gaelic Chieftain viewing area on N4 are now managed on a cut and lift once a year. Loughnaneane Park in Roscommon town has a wildflower meadow now managed on a one cut and lift per year regime with paths cut through it regularly to facilitate access. • The Monksland Greenway is now managed with a layered mowing regime with a cut strip along the path leaving the inside verge for one cut and lift per year. On the N4 as you approach Carrick on Shannon an area approximately 2m x 150m x 250m and an area at the N5 at the Gallowglass Sculpture at Ballaghaderreen are managed as one cut and lift per year. • Pollinator information and signage was distributed to community groups and individuals all around the county on request. • A series of three ‘Pledge Your Garden for Pollinators’ talks and walks were held during National Heritage Week delivered by Hannah Mole from Earthcare Permaculture. Our actions for pollinators were supported by the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Sligo County Council	July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sligo is Buzzing Campaign: The Heritage Office ran a four-week awareness campaign (June 2022) raising awareness of pollinators and actions that individuals and local communities can undertake to support their conservation. It included 120 adverts/infomercials on local radio station (Ocean FM) on the following themes: don't mow let it grow/hedgerows/herbs/reducing pesticide use/trees for pollinators. Funded by Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan Programme • The Parks Department and staff: Planted five community orchards as part of the Community Orchards Project in different areas around town and in partnership with local communities at Cleveragh Park, Mitchell Curley Park, Roger Eames Road, Ash Lane and within the grounds of the Regional Sports Complex. A selection of fruit trees was planted including apple, plum, and cherry. • The Parks Department and staff planted approximately 300 native tree saplings at different locations within the Sligo urban area in partnership with students from Summerhill College and the Mercy college. Species planted included Alder, Rowan, Silver Birch, Hazel, and Holly. • Several flower beds were planted in various locations within the Sligo Urban Area with an emphasis on perennial and pollinator friendly plants. Use of chemicals was significantly reduced. There was an increase in the number of wildflower meadows within the green areas managed by the Parks Department. • Municipal Districts: Cutting and mowing of verges and hedgerows along the county road network was deferred/delayed until late April 2022 until after the first flush of early wildflowers had gone to seed.
South Dublin County Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Public Realm Department manage 160 hectares of grassland as natural meadows for pollinators. • In 2022 we began trialling short flowering meadows which are cut every 6 weeks. These are mainly in residential areas. In total we have 10 hectares being managed in this way. We are using this trial as a way of engaging with residents and community groups and in 2023 residents' groups will be able to request this type of grassland management for their areas. • We are continuing to carry out detailed surveys in our meadows to establish botanical and invertebrate baselines and assess the impacts of our management practices. • Our Heritage Officer has led Pollinator Walks in meadows around the County to inform people about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and its importance to local biodiversity. She has also given talks in our libraries and engages with community groups on a continual basis. • Providing information to our customers on the Pollinator Plan and our progress in implementing it is very important and we are continuing to develop videos and information for our social media channels. New staff training videos are in production as well as a video for community groups and Tidy Towns Groups.

Tipperary County Council	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nenagh Municipal District are now using a push flail mower which has reduced the use of herbicides by up to 70%. The 2.8 km Nenagh River walk is now being maintained with no use of herbicides. An extensive pollinator friendly planting programme took place this year, for example 2,267 plants and 39 trees in Johns Lane Car park Nenagh and a further 3,683 plants and trees in Newport town park. Hedge cutting was kept to a minimum and an area of 0.75 acres at the Riverside Park in Ballina was left uncut as part of the ‘Don’t Mow let it grow’ initiative in conjunction with Ballina Tidy Towns. • Clonmel Borough District took part in ‘No mow May’, reducing the amount of grass cut in local authority estates and public spaces, Wildflower corridors are being encouraged on the roundabouts on entry to the town and on strips along the N24 bypass. In conjunction with Clonmel Tidy Towns they offered support and assistance in developing wildlife/biodiversity and pollinator friendly areas in Loreto Park, St Stephens Place, Mulcahy Park and Denis Burke Park. Planting in this District is predominantly pollinator friendly and will be going forward in terms of trees and flowers. • Thurles/Templemore District are prioritising pollinator friendly planting in all their towns and have begun natural rewilding of roundabouts and approach roads throughout the district with one cut in September. The same is being applied to the MD Office Green space with one cut a year. Pollinator-friendly planting also took place in a rainwater garden in the newly refurbished Parnell Street Carpark. • Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel MD are also promoting pollinator friendly planting along the new River Ara Walkway which includes an enhanced natural wetland with viewing area. The Three Bees of Biodiversity Festival organised by Tipperary Tidy Towns and the Taskforce Biodiversity Committee took place in May during which 5 national and 3 secondary schools took part in biodiversity workshops. This group will launch their Landscaping and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2027 on November 18th. Cahir Tidy towns and the local TY students planted an orchard as part of the ‘Orchards in the Community’ initiative and large areas of the Inch field are now zoned as pollinator friendly biodiversity corridors. • The Heritage Office provided materials to groups and organisations around the county to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of pollinator friendly planting.
Waterford City & County Council	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let Dandelions Bee – Spring 2022. Building upon the initiative of 2021, this was further continued in Waterford City, Tramore and Dungarvan letting dandelions bloom by not cutting dandelion prolific sites, thus helping to provide another Spring food source for bees. • Waterford Council Biodiversity Meadows – expanding our biodiversity meadows from the initial conception of primarily Kilbarry Nature Park; for 2022 we saw continuation of our meadows in Dungarvan Tramore and Waterford

		<p>City which included a number of open space residential areas in the city. For 2022 we recorded 6.29 hectares in the city of Waterford which was set aside for this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Biodiversity Meadows – a further creation of 1,800m² of wildflower areas across Waterford City Tramore and Dungarvan building upon the success of the introduction of 6,000m² in 2021. These areas have been taken back from permanent amenity grass to sown with a specific grass and wildflower mix suitable to site and conditions. • Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme – where the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford are undertaking the pilot Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, the council were delighted to facilitate in providing the Kilbarry Nature Park as a site for long-term pollinator monitoring of this urban park.
Wexford County Council	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduced-use herbicide policy was drafted and adopted by the Environment SPC. Alternative weed control measures will be adopted on a trial basis. • Creation of an urban ecological corridor in Gorey: an urban strip was selected for management as an urban ecological corridor with reduced mowing regime and management of encroaching vegetation. • Biodiversity Week: talks in the libraries and local community centres on topics of biodiversity interest including bees and pollinator-friendly planting. • Increased management of public green spaces with pollinator friendly mowing regimes. • Trees for Wexford scheme: 154 groups applied and a variety of native tree saplings, hedgerow species and native fruit trees were distributed. • Sustainable planting grant: communities had the opportunity to apply for pollinator friendly perennials to grow in their local areas.
Westmeath County Council	February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned pollinator adverts on regional radio: The Heritage Office, in partnership with Laois and Offaly Heritage officers, commissioned a series of radio adverts on Midlands 103 with advice on simple actions to help pollinators. Co-funded by the Heritage Offices and the LBAF Grant Scheme from NPWS. • Reduced mowing: Reduced mowing along roadside verges where possible. Only two cut and lifts done along the greenway in 2022. • The council reduced hedgerow cutting to encourage blossom growth in spring. • Council continued policy of reduced use of herbicide: Herbicides were only used in housing estates where specifically requested by residents. Gas Flame used to treat weeds in Mullingar Town Park. Use of recycled wood chip as a mulch instead of herbicide in some locations.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator friendly planting at series of roundabouts in Athlone Moate Municipal District, in planters in conjunction with Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme, at Burges Park Athlone, Athlone Castle and pollinator friendly tree species and hedging planted at 4 designated locations along the Old Rail Trail Greenway. • Belvedere Gardens and Park - planted native tree species in area cleared of Laurel; including pollinator friendly willow species. Managed meadows for wildflowers by reducing mowing and yellow rattle planted in meadow beside visitor centre in Autumn 2021 flowered in 2022. • During Biodiversity Week Pollinator Champion Peter Cuthbert gave a talk in Mullingar Library ‘Advice on pollinator friendly planting for gardens; a talk by horticulturalist Peter Cuthbert’, this talk was recorded and shared online. • The Heritage Office and the PPN commissioned a Sustainable and Pollinator Friendly Gardening Course (1-day course), this hands on course was provided free of charge and there was great interest (35 people attended the October workshop, second workshop yet to take place). • Westmeath Libraries organised a series of talks on sustainable gardening with an emphasis on native pollinator friendly planting during late summer 2022. Talks delivered by Anna Browne of Big Sky Flowers.
Wicklow County Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator resources – Advice and a range of resources distributed free of charge by the Heritage Officer including ‘Pledge your Garden for Biodiversity’ and ‘Gardening for Biodiversity’ and Wildlife in Wicklow’s Gardens posters. Over 500 ‘managed for wildlife’ and ‘Don’t mow let it Grow’ outdoor signs distributed to MDs and members of public. • Public Biodiversity Awareness Events: Monthly free public event programme May-December held in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland at East Coast Nature Reserve including sessions on wildflowers and pollinators. A programme of six biodiversity conservation events were held at Brittas Bay including a focus on pollinator friendly management. Heritage Officer and Environmental Awareness Officer hosted a one day ‘Lets Get Buzzing’ event held on 9th April in Roundwood with a key audience of Tidy Towns and other community based groups. Kate Chandler from the National Biodiversity Data Centre delivered a session on community actions for pollinators in the Tidy Towns competition. Over the course of the year the Heritage Officer delivered online and in person talks on pollinator friendly management to groups. • Pollinator friendly mowing in Municipal Districts: Each Municipal District expanded on selected ‘pollinator friendly’ areas for management on 6-weekly cut and lift mowing regimes and included pollinator friendly species in new planning schemes on roundabouts, verges and other areas. • Avoidance of chemical use by Municipal Districts: In response to the Glyphosate policy adopted by Wicklow County Council outdoor areas in each MD are being managed on a chemical free or reduced chemical basis. Alternative

		<p>weed control techniques involving metal brush sweepers and increased use of strimmers along with 'Foamstream' equipment which uses steam, biodegradable plant oils and sugar as an alternative to chemical cleaning and weed control on streets and paved areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Management of Council owned Lands: The Climate Action Team is leading the development of best practice management prescriptions for council owned lands a Bray Head, Wicklow Head and at Clermont Campus with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and making landscapes more pollinator friendly.
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We were unable to make contact with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid & East Antrim Borough Council as part of this review process. More complete attempts will be made in 2023, as it may be a result of staff or role changes. Council partners are requested to provide updates, but this is not policed.

2022 report compiled by Kate Chandler, Communities & Engagement Pollinator Officer, National Biodiversity Data Centre



Implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 is being coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a programme of The Heritage Council and is funded by The Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

