



Business Supporters Newsletter: May 2023

The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation of the AIPP is coordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#).

Dear All

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

New Business Supporters in April included: Bank of Ireland, Boots Ireland, Joseph Brennan Bakeries, Liffey Meats, Wheels We Deliver, The Samuel Hotel, Sigma Aldrich Ireland Ltd. (Merck), and Wild Acres - Nature Reserve.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May is a big AIPP month as we celebrate: [No Mow May](#), [World Bee Day](#) (20 May), Biodiversity Day (21 May), and May's virtual [Festival of Farmland Biodiversity](#). All of the above you can tap into on Twitter [@PollinatorPlan](#) and Instagram [@allirelandpollinatorplan](#).

Want to align your Marketing Communications with AIPP?

[REVIEW HERE](#) the AIPP Abridged Comms Plan for 2023.

Impacts & Dependencies - AIPP an evidence-based, 'entry-level' into biodiversity on any site

- In the language of biodiversity we often talk of 'impacts' and 'dependencies'. Simply put - we are 'dependent' on pollinators (wild bees) for pollination of crops, trees, flowers etc. and we know we can have an almost immediate 'impact' on their environment by delivering AIPP evidence-based actions. We also know that as we start taking AIPP evidence-based actions for pollinators, we are impacting on wider biodiversity. So, don't 'overthink' what your company might do for biodiversity. Focus on pollinators first, which can be cost-neutral or low cost, and then add other biodiversity year on year.
- Why not start with your [carpark](#) and surrounding grassy areas? (i) [Reduce mowing](#) to create naturally re-generated wildflower areas and choose planting options from our [TOP TEN](#) planting guide.

- REMEMBER choose an alternative action to [wildflower seed mixes](#) and [honeybee hives](#) neither of which is a biodiversity action. Also can you choose (i) Peat-free compost (ii) Pesticide-free bulbs/shrubs/trees (iii) Provenance-Irish native trees (e.g. a Blackthorn from Central/Eastern Europe will flower at the wrong time of year for our wild bees) (iv) Eco-alternatives to pesticides - continue to spot spray [invasive species](#).
- **No physical site?** No problem; there are lots of [communication actions](#) in which your business can participate across employees, community and suppliers.

Need ideas to help..?

Employees take pollinator friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

Suppliers take pollinator-friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

Community take pollinator-friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

MAP EARLY, MAP OFTEN

A huge THANK YOU to all businesses who have mapped AIPP evidence-based actions on our GIS '[Actions for Pollinators](#)' - biodiversity-accountability portal. Mapping actions is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for AIPP participation.

START MEASURING/MONITORING

- Not sure what is on your site? Then establish a [Baseline Ecological Survey](#) and repeat every 3 or every 5 years.
- To monitor what is on your site, invite employees to participate in [FIT Counts](#) or the fascinating and more challenging [Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme](#).
- Also check out the new weekly '[Biodiversity on the Farm](#)' initiative where farm-suppliers can start to record the types of pollinators-biodiversity on their farms (no experience necessary).

Sarah Kelly

Agri-business Officer

*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), co-ordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#), actively addresses the time-critical pollinator-biodiversity challenge. It is a shared plan of action for the island now in its seventh 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.

Thanks to the funders of the Agri-business Officer position: [Bord Bia Origin Green's](#) food sustainability programme and [Business for Biodiversity Ireland](#), Ireland's new biodiversity hub.

WILD BEE WATCH: keep an eye out for the Red Mason Bee

This is another of our more distinctive solitary bees – look out for a rounded abdomen with orange hairs. This species is commonly found in gardens and will nest in existing cavities – usually loose masonry or bee boxes. It's reckoned that just one of these females can do the pollination work of over a hundred honeybees!



Submit your solitary bee sightings

TO DO THIS MONTH: #NoMowMay

No Mow May is an idea developed by Plantlife UK. It is one of the best actions you can take to help pollinators! Leave the lawn mower in the shed for the month of May to allow Clovers and other flowers to naturally bloom and feed hungry insects. You don't have to let things go wild, but reducing mowing, even in small areas, will have a very positive impact on our pollinators (and it's free!).

This year we are delighted to collaborate with *An Post* to promote No Mow May and encourage as many people as possible to take part.

Help celebrate the initiative by sharing your images of No Mow May using the hashtag #NoMowMay. Follow us on Twitter @PollinatorPlan and Instagram @allirelandpollinatorplan



Read more

TAKE 'JUST ONE ACTION': World Bee Day - 20th May

World Bee Day occurs each year on the 20th May. We encourage everyone (business, employees, suppliers and their communities) to mark the day by taking an evidence-based action to help our declining wild bees. We will release new evidence-based resources as the day approaches [READ MORE HERE](#)

JUST ONE ACTION for World Bee Day - Flower Insect Timed (FIT) Counts

Invite employees to participate in FIT Counts - an important way to help monitor pollinators.

HOW TO FIT COUNT: 1) Download the simple, free FIT Count App. 2) Watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count (tap what you see) how many insects visit. **Location*: Anywhere - business site, garden or park | **Flower Type*: Any - but if you can find Hawthorn for May. Other good flowers are *Buttercup, Red Clover, Dandelion or White Dead Nettle*. N.B. it must be sunny and at least 13C degrees. In 2022, the average number of insects recorded on a FIT Count was 8. The FIT Count methodology was developed by the *UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme*.

Review other 'JUST ONE ACTION' suggestions for World Bee Day:

- Participate in [No Mow May](#) (see above) on your business site and invite employees to participate in their gardens.
- Or select ONE of our [Top Ten recommended actions](#) for your business site.
- Review other ideas in which your **employees, suppliers and communities** might participate: [READ MORE HERE](#)
- For agri-business/farm suppliers/ growers - participate in the virtual May [Festival of Farmland Biodiversity](#).
- Tell friends, colleagues, community about AIPP www.pollinators.ie



Top Ten Pollinator Actions

NEW RESOURCE: Top Ten Pollinator-friendly Plants for Different Situations

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is delighted to release a new free resource. Developed in collaboration with Dr Noeleen Smyth of Horticulture UCD, the booklet contains 24 lists of pollinator-friendly plants that are suitable for different situations.

As you know, we always encourage you to prioritise native species. However, specific horticultural plants on private land can also help flower-visiting insects when they are rich in pollen and nectar. This guide is primarily aimed at helping you choose the best plants for pollinators and can be used on business sites and as guideline advice to Landscape Contractors/Grounds Maintenance companies.

REMEMBER: sowing/scattering (gifting/sponsoring) wildflower seed mixes (bulk/packets/bee-bombs) is NOT a biodiversity action. [READ MORE HERE](#)



[Read more](#)

MAP EARLY, MAP OFTEN: Map evidence-based actions on your business site(s) on 'Actions for Pollinators'

GIS biodiversity-accountability portal

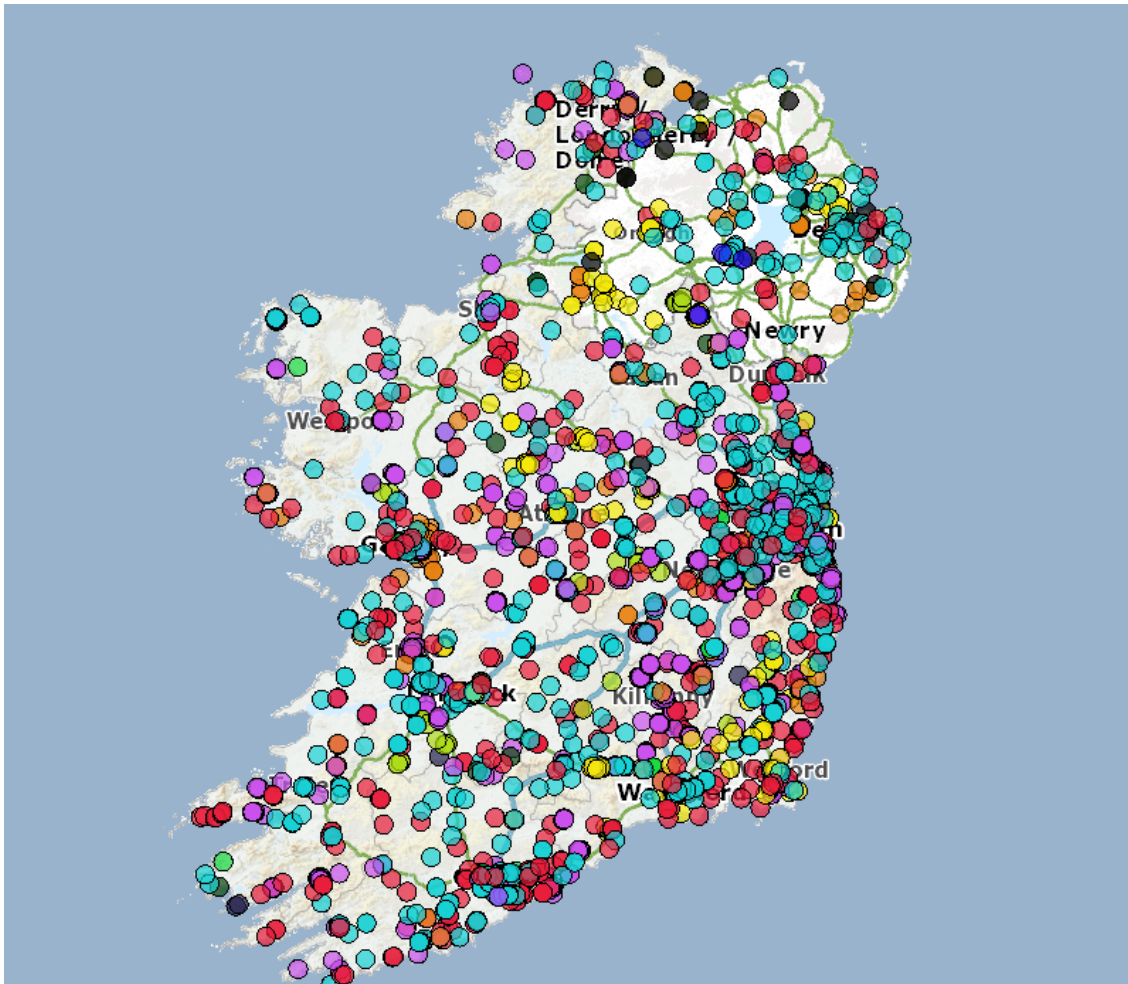
A huge thank you to those actively mapping on '[Actions for Pollinators](#)' - now mandatory as an AIPP Business Supporter - we really appreciate it.

REMINDERS:

- *Repeating similar actions on your site in 2023?* You must click 'SUBMIT' on actions EACH year – even if repeating the same site actions as last year.
- 2022 submitted actions will still be visible on your 'Actions for Pollinators' Account. Edit/overwrite last year's actions with 2023's actions; then click 'SUBMIT'.
- NAMING PROTOCOL: list company name first. e.g. *Company X – reduced mowing.*
- *Asset Managers managing residential communal areas/gardens as part of a portfolio? Or is your business developing a garden?* Please list the sector as a 'Business' and then name as e.g. *Company X (Garden/Green Lane Residential Dev.) – reduced mowing.*
- *Does your company manage assets for a third party?* Invite them to map pollinator-friendly actions as part of their sustainability/biodiversity reporting.
- *Is your business participating in the DCs for Bees/orchards initiative via Host in Ireland?* Please list as e.g. *Company X (DCs for Bees) Orchards 2023.*
- *Limited land footprint OR a micro-enterprise?* Please map your Comms Actions.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- To ensure you are reporting on *AIPP evidence-based actions* including specific pollinator-friendly species. [REVIEW on our Resources page.](#)
- To provide m2 or linear metres where possible.



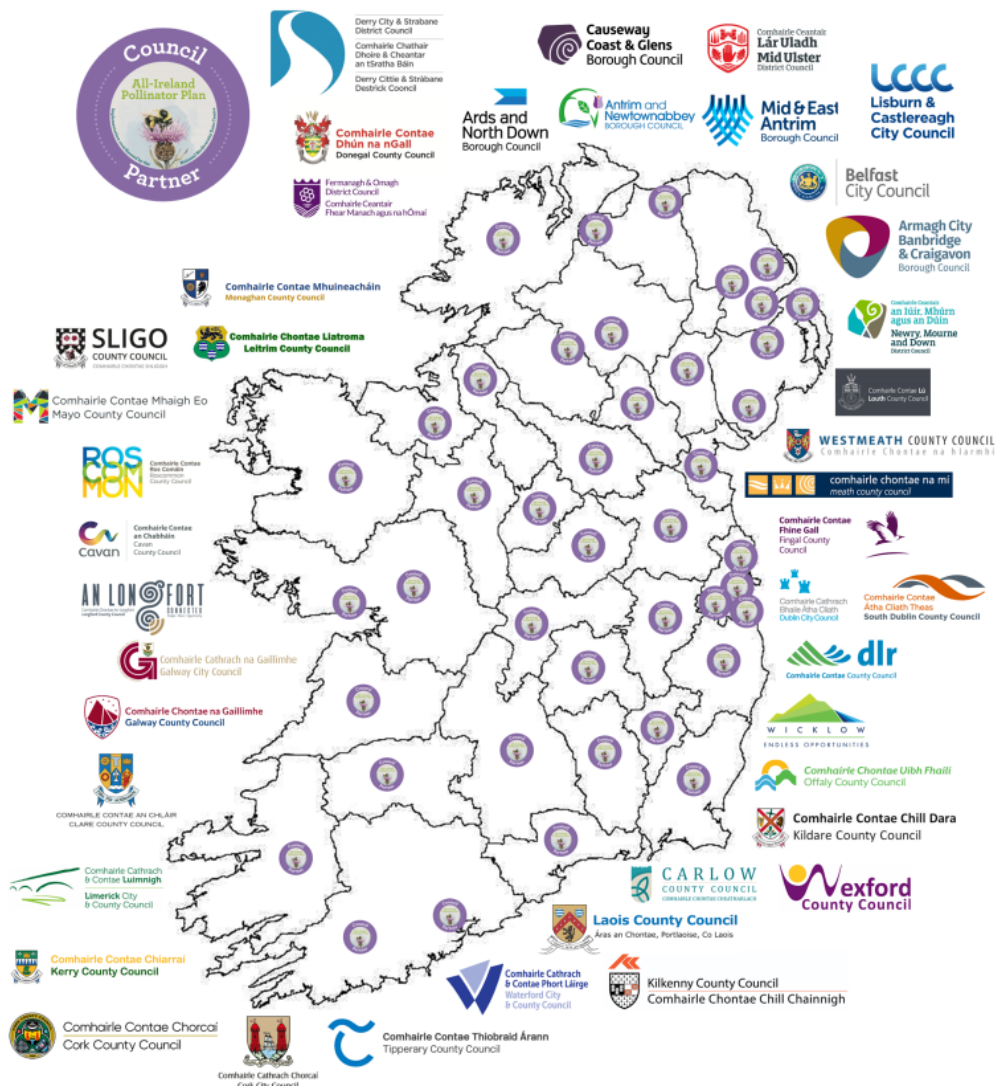
[Read more](#)

FULL HOUSE: All 42 Councils now signed up to the

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

As of March 2023, all 42 councils on the island of Ireland have formally signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We are delighted that every council is now formally partnered and committed to taking actions. This is a huge achievement that shows we are all on the same page when it comes to managing our landscape for biodiversity. We'd like to thank all our Council Partners for joining the effort to help pollinators and are looking forward to continuing to support them in taking the right actions in the coming years.

If the landscape around your business/residential sites is managed by the Council invite them to observe: 'No Mow May', Pollinator Week (June) and other monthly initiatives. [REVIEW AIPP MONTHLY COMMS](#) and campaigns.



August 2022

[Read more](#)

WILD BEE REDISCOVERY: Perkins' Mining Bee

rediscovered in Ireland after nearly 50 years

Following in the footsteps of the Tawny Mining Bee, which was rediscovered in Ireland in 2012, another bee feared extinct has been found after 46 years. The Perkins' Mining Bee (*Andrena rosae*) which was last seen in 1977, was found by Owen Beckett (Research Officer, National Biodiversity Data Centre) whilst surveying in Co. Carlow. A female was seen entering her nest close to the river Barrow on the 6th April 2023.



[Read more](#)

BLOOM 2023: Join the AIPP Team at the National Biodiversity Data Centre stand

The AIPP Team is delighted to be participating in Bord Bia's Bloom 2023 at Phoenix Park from 1-5 June 2023. Whether you are a gardener, a business, a farmer, part of a community group or would just like to know more about our wild bees and wider biodiversity, come and see us at the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* stand in the Conservation Zone.

BORD BIA
Bloom

[Read more](#)

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National Biodiversity Data Centre, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, Ireland, X91PE03

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