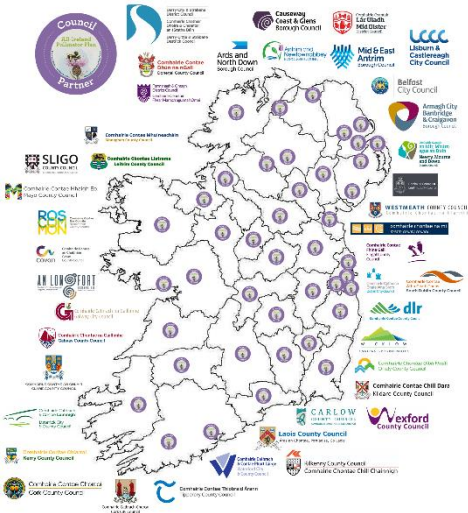


All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



COUNCIL PARTNERS: ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



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



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

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 Plan each year.

In 2023, all 42 councils and local authorities on the island of Ireland formally signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We're thrilled that every council and local authority on the island of Ireland is now formally signed up as a council partner. This is a huge achievement that shows we are now all on the same page when it comes to managing our landscape for pollinators.

Overall, pollinating insects are still in decline on our island, but since the Pollinator Plan began we have gained the support of many governmental and non-governmental partners and have seen increases in local pollinator populations where actions have been taken to help them. This shows what we are doing is working and gives us hope that if we continue to take action together, we can create an island where pollinators can survive and thrive.

Local authorities are carrying out significant work to protect biodiversity and pollinators, as reflected in this 2023 Annual Review document. Now in its eighth 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 excellent 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 seminatural 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 our landscapes for the benefit of pollinators.

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 and updated evidence-based resources, more technical advice, and more knowledge exchange opportunities. 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 variety of benefits they bring.

We sincerely thank all our Council partners for their support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2023.

Kate Chandler, National Biodiversity Data Centre



Background

A 15-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 a Company Limited by Guarantee, register number 730718.

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. All 42 Councils across the island of Ireland have now partnered with the Pollinator Plan.

2023 annual review

For each council partner, the council's point of contact was asked to provide short bullet point updates on their activities in 2023. They were contacted by email. Where a 2023 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. 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 2023 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 always mentioned under the respective council updates, many local authorities contribute into this prize fund.



2023 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 Pollinator Plan in 2023 (up to 5)
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Launch of our Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2028) with Dermot Gavin and Joe Mahon in consultation with key partners. • Ongoing advice provision by Council’s Parks Development Officers to schools, community groups, sports clubs and businesses on how to create pollinator friendly greenspaces and where to find relevant funding pots, e.g. Keep NI Beautiful: “School Pollinator Garden” grants scheme. A biodiversity-themed events programme was rolled out in 2023 with our key partners, in the delivery of educational walks, talks and practical conservation work at our key parks and open spaces. Events included Moth Trapping and ID Training with BTO, and Family Tree Planting with the Woodland Trust. • Installation of King’s Coronation Garden at Hazelbank Park, to include wildflower meadow areas. • Green Flag Awards: 26 flags were awarded throughout the Borough in 2023 (featuring 7 Community Awards which included the Pollinator award). This incorporated our zero-use of peat products and minimal use of herbicides. • Best Kept Garden Competition: This is run annually by Council including ‘Most Wildlife Friendly Garden’ and ‘Most Sustainable Garden’, and ‘Best Kept Allotment’ as a new category for 2023, encouraging more of our Borough residents to consider incorporating features and planting that would be more supportive of our local biodiversity. • Seed Banks with Libraries NI – Council have partnered with Libraries NI and have produced 600 seed sachets of pollinator-friendly flowers for gardens. These sachets will be distributed to interested customers at the libraries. Each packet also includes a QR code that directs users to the biodiversity section of the Council's website. • One Million Trees Programme relaunched in autumn. It commenced with Together: Building a United Community giving away 1,000 trees to schools within the Borough. Packs were distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis to 30 schools in total. So far in the 2023 planting season we have planted a further 50,000 native trees within our Borough, along with our key partners. This brings the total to over 200,000 native trees to date. • Crumlin Allotments: this new facility with 35 plots opened in 2023. The plot holders secured funding from Keep NI Beautiful to plant a community orchard on one of the plots.
Ards & North Down Borough Council	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no updates from this council for 2023.
Armagh City, Banbridge &	November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the ‘let it grow don’t mow’ campaign across the council ward, with 23 road verge sites left for wildflowers and grasses to flourish. • Over 30,000 native trees were planted under the Queens green canopy scheme.

<p>Craigavon Borough Council</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage approximately 150 acres for wildflowers and wildflower meadows. • Removal of Himalayan Balsam to allow native flowers and grasses to flourish at different sites in the Borough. • 7km of riparian planting on the Tynan, Callan, and Blackwater rivers. The trees planted included flowering fruit trees. • Moth survey: Surveyed the lands around South Lake leisure centre for the Cryptic White Wood moth, this survey will include any other species encountered. • Butterfly survey: Surveyed Peatlands Park along with Butterfly Conservation for Large Heath Butterfly, again all species encountered would have been noted. • Training for staff on wildflower and grasses identification.
<p>Belfast City Council</p>	<p>May 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast's Buzzing: A partnership project between Buglife, Belfast City Council, National Trust and other organisations focussed on pollinators and restoring 15 hectares of wildflower meadows across Belfast in 2023 and 2024. To date over 1 hectare of Council owned land has been restored with proposals in place for other sites. Work parties to date include planting yellow rattle, removing scrub, and scything. Events included FIT Count and bumblebee training, BioBlitzes, educational talks to staff, schools, community groups and a joint event with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. • Biodiversity and Climate Project on Species Rich Grasslands: Completed Phase 2 habitat surveys of 5 sites (approx. 40 ha) to assess ecological and carbon benefits. Outputs: Ecological data to inform existing and future site management. Identification of data gaps and risks such as invasive alien species. Recommendations for future management and enhancement. Briefing note on habitat management/guidance for Site Managers and external partners. • Biodiversity and Climate Project on Cave Hill: Completed Phase 2 habitat survey (121 ha) of species rich grassland, upland heath, fen, and permanent pasture to identify future opportunities for carbon and biodiversity. • City Cemetery: Ongoing project - restoration from amenity grassland to lowland meadow, priority habitat. Baseline invertebrate survey completed in 2017 repeat survey completed in 2023. Results indicate a significant increase in invertebrates especially pollinators across bees, hoverflies, and butterflies with two notable blood bees and several scarce hoverflies recorded for the first time. Three workshops were held on meadow management and scything. Five training sessions on wildflower and tree identification were delivered. • Wild Belfast Safari in the City: The council has funded a yearlong programme of events to engage the citizens of Belfast to celebrate and explore the wildlife of Belfast. Engagement will be undertaken through a series living murals that aim to contribute to the conservation of wildlife, with at least one mural focussed on pollinators. The associated activity programme will include 30 events and aims to reach over 6,000 people throughout 2024. Events will cover the natural history of habitats as well as provide training ranging from entry level species identification, such as common wildflowers, through to lesser recorded species groups such as solitary bees.
<p>Carlow County Council</p>	<p>July 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy: In April 2023, Carlow County Council adopted the <i>County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy</i>, which contained a novel approach to managing urban pollinator foraging networks. The approach is

		<p>based on the policy that: “No pollinator in County Carlow’s towns and villages will have to travel more than 200metres in order to find a food source (green space of a minimum size, that is managed for biodiversity).”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow Town Edible Pollinator Patch at Carlow College: Arising from the Green Infrastructure Strategy, a gap was identified for pollinators at St Patrick’s College. Funding was secured for same under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023, to install two gardens, one on either side of the College’s main entrance gate, with fruit trees underplanted with fruit bushes, and all underplanted with a variety of herbs, providing food for pollinators and us. The planting is laid out in a Celtic knot design, with traditional bee skeps installed as a non-functional feature to reflect the role of pollinators in food production. • Launch of County Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2025: In March 2023, Carlow County Council adopted their first Biodiversity Action Plan. • Hare’s Corner Wildlife Pond: An initiative of the Burrenbeo Trust Landscape Charity, the Hare’s Corner project aims to help landowners to make a little more space for nature on their land, by creating pocket-sized habitats which are good for wildlife. The project was successfully piloted in Co. Clare, before being scaled up by the Burrenbeo Trust in Co. Mayo. In liaison with the Burrenbeo Trust, and with funding secured under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, Carlow County Council is acting as the test case for the initiative to be directly administered by local authorities nationwide. • Bagenalstown Biodiversity Classroom: Funding was secured under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund to prepare a management plan for this Council-owned site, which supports several rare species that were under pressure from encroachment.
<p>Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council</p>	<p>August 2022</p>	<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. The estates team has assisted volunteers with additional grasslands area. There are currently over 12 hectares for grassland being managed as meadows for pollinators. • Department For Infrastructure partnership: The Estates team has implemented a pilot scheme with DFI Roads through the Don’t Mow Let it Grow project, the council estates team manage the road verges and roundabouts on the outskirts of Coleraine as short-flowering meadows for pollinators, creating a wildlife corridor around the town. By cutting and lifting the grass, the Estates Team has reduced the number of schedule cuts from 10-15 days to 6-8weeks, which allows pollinators to naturally re-establish. As Part of the pilot scheme, DFI Roads and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council produced several videos to promote short flowering meadows and grassland management for Coleraine: Biodiversity project with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – part 1 – YouTube Biodiversity project with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – part 2 – YouTube • DFI Roads have created a new cycle lane on the Coleraine ring road (approximately 1400m). DFI is worked closely with the council estates team to ensure the metre strip separating the cyclists as a meadow benefiting pollinators and creating more habitat as a wildlife corridor that is particularly pollinator friendly.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council Estates team are continuing to convert traditional urban flower beds into wildflower pollinator beds in towns and villages throughout the Borough. We have expanded our wildflowers portfolio to several more towns across 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. The team's hard work has achieved the following awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Large Town' Ulster In Bloom winners 2023 Britain in Bloom 'Gold' Award Large town 2023 Overall Horticultural Excellence Award 2023: Awards success for Coleraine at Britain in Bloom 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk) The estates team are continually perfecting and refining their bespoke local seed mix. The Estates Team has also increased the number of pollinator friendly shrubs in our permanent planting.
Cavan County Council	March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan's Historic Graveyards ... where nature finds sanctuary: Historic graveyards in County Cavan are a place of sanctuary for biodiversity. Cavan Heritage Office recognises the important role in nurturing biodiversity in our historic graveyards. Comprehensive guidelines have been produced for local groups encouraging light touch maintenance in historic graveyards. These guidelines have been very well received among the wider community. Pollinator friendly towns and villages in Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark: Throughout the Geopark towns and villages have been identified and are encouraged to undertake pollinator friendly planting. They have been made aware of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and two of our communities have produced biodiversity/ pollinator plans, e.g. Jampa Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre and Templeport Golden Way. Hedgerow Survey: Cavan Heritage Office undertook a hedgerow survey in 2023 to identify the extent and condition of hedgerows in rural Cavan. Biodiversity awareness events targeting ICA groups throughout the county: An Action of Cavan Biodiversity Plan, we strive to promote a greater understanding and awareness of biodiversity and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. In 2023, the Heritage Office worked with ICA Groups throughout the County and indeed, one of the ICA Groups organised a very successful day centring on the awareness of biodiversity, pollinators and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Golden Communities along Cavan's Golden Ways: The Heritage Office continues its work in developing rural walks known as Cavan Golden Ways, we have identified strong communities along each of these walks and we have embarked on a creative project whereby local artists work with communities in responding to the rich heritage along these walks. Natural heritage and pollinators are of paramount importance and the artwork produced indicates this.
Clare County Council	February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardening team activities: In 2023, the Gardening Team implemented 'No Mow May' at Áras Contae an Chláir (main Council Office Headquarters). The aim of this measure was to encourage insect pollinators and plant diversity in line with 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. This grassland management produced a flush of Daisies, Dandelions, Red and White Clover, cuckoo flower, Hawksbeard, Selfheal and Bird's-foot trefoil without any wildflower seed application. The flowers provided food and shelter for pollinators over the hungry gap in springtime. It is intended to monitor the plant species diversity changes over time given this mowing regime.

- The Gardening Team has been involved for the past four years in an ongoing review of practices to align with the various actions for Councils, as set out in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Some of the key measures are as follows:
 - Ban on use of herbicides by 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 in 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 2024.
- **Roundabout management:** Roundabouts in and around Ennis, including the Rocky Road Roundabout, the Clareen Roundabout and the Tulla road roundabout, have been managed for pollinators with a delayed mowing regime in place (once a year in September). This has seen the establishment of wildflowers such as Ox-eye daisy, Hawksbeard, Bird's-foot trefoil, and Cuckoo flower. Clare County Council is also implementing and managing pollinator friendly grassland management regimes at Lees Road Sports Complex (since 2019) and more recently Kilrush Sports Complex (2023). The grassland at the edges of the sports pitches has been let grow and are cut once every six weeks.
- **Community biodiversity actions plans:** In September and October 2023, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer met over 40 community groups to advocate for pollinator friendly management regimes to be included in their village/town local biodiversity action plans. Many of these communities are applying for funding under the Community Foundation Ireland's Biodiversity Fund. Some of the towns and villages that are actively managing their local area for pollinators include Lisdoonvarna, Cratloe, Inagh, Shannon, Kilmurry, Scarriff, Toonagh, Clarecastle, Ennis, Kilrush, Kilnaboy, Clonlara, and Corofin.
- **Clarecastle GAA Club:** In September 2023, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Clarecastle Tidy Towns met with Clarecastle GAA Club to help them naturally restore wildflower meadows by managing the lands around the newly constructed astro turf pitch for pollinators with a pollinator-friendly mowing regime.
- **Return to Nature Initiative:** 2023 saw the development of the 'Return to Nature' biodiversity initiative by the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer Barry O'Loughlin along with the Bishop of Killaloe and Laudato Si' Officer signed up 10 Clare parishes to carry out biodiversity actions on church grounds. This will include pollinator friendly management regimes. On 12/10/23, the Biodiversity Officer gave an online presentation as part of the Laudato Si' Animators

meeting. It is hoped that actions will be funded by Clare County Council and the NPWS (through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund).



'No Mow May' implemented at Council HQ in Ennis.



Lees Road Sports Complex managed for pollinators (June 2023).



Wildflower meadow managed at Pavillion Park, Lisdoonvarna.

Cork City Council

September 2019

- **Wildflower meadow practices:** Promoting the importance of dandelions as pollinators in early spring and delaying the first cut of managed council open spaces to mid-April to allow dandelions and other native pollinator wildflowers to flower.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Gardening Courses with Aoife Munn: Cork City Council funded three free sustainable gardening courses for Cork City community groups and council staff to attend and learn about sustainable gardening practices from Horticulturist Aoife Munn. • Green Flag Awards in Cork City Parks: Cork City Council was awarded five Green Flags in its third year of entering the Green Flag Awards. Fitzgerald’s Park, Shalom Park retained their green flags for a third year in a row, Regional Park Ballincollig and Douglas Community Park retained their flags for a second year and Gerry O’Sullivan Park on the northside of Cork City received its first Green Flag. • World Bee Day Information Stall (Biodiversity Week): Information stall at Tramore Valley Park on World Bee Day in conjunction with the Kinship Project, providing information on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, pollinator-friendly plants, and native pollinators in Ireland. • Native hedgerow planting within Tramore Valley Park: 2,800 whips of native trees were planted within Tramore Valley Park along a stretch of 700 metres: Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Spindle, Hazel and Holly. • Children’s Educational Workshops: Cork City Council Biodiversity Officers, in collaboration with Clashduv Park Community Garden and Green Spaces for Health, delivered four outdoor children’s workshops in August 2023, which focused on wildlife identification and appreciation. These included workshops on pollination and pollinators, pondlife, birds, trees and flowers. Resources included the use of animal ID guides including National Biodiversity Data Centre swatches and art materials. Overarching goals of the course were to ‘connect’ children with nature, promote outdoor recreation among children and highlight the importance of healthy ecosystems in supporting a variety of life.
<p>Cork County Council</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating pollinator friendly landscaping into new council led developments: The Ecology Office is working with colleagues across the Local Authority to ensure that provision is made for the integration of pollinator friendly landscaping in all new local authority developments, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All new active travel and greenways schemes including the new Youghal to Midelton Greenway. ○ All new Council led housing developments. ○ Public Realm Projects e.g. Bandon TPREP ○ Beal na Blath Monument. • Integrating pollinator friendly landscaping into new development: It is a standard requirement that landscaping schemes for new residential and industrial developments are designed to accord with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Landscape Plans are reviewed by in house ecology team to ensure this requirement is complied with. • Ongoing implementation of Town Pollinator Plans: Macroom, Midleton, Carrigaline, Bantry, Skibberen, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Fermoy, Mitchelstown and Cobh. Additional support will be provided to our Municipal District officers to support this initiative following the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer. • Pollinator Friendly Management of Dry Meadow at Harpers Island Wetland: We are implementing a pollinator friendly mowing regime in our dry meadow habitat and we have created two bee scrapes adjoining this habitat.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Action Plan for County Hall Campus in development: The Ecology Team is in the process of developing a Biodiversity Action Plan for the County Hall campus. This will include actions for pollinators as well as other species. • Funding and Supporting Communities: Funding supports have been provided to several community groups engaging in pollinator friendly planting/management of their local areas. Advice is provided by the Ecology Team to support pollinator friendly initiatives.
Derry City and Strabane District Council	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't Mow Let it Grow reduced mowing: The council has continued with its reduced mowing regime 'Don't Mow Let it Grow'. • The council has reinforced its mandate not to use glyphosate.
Donegal County Council	January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new County Donegal Heritage Plan (2023-2030) was adopted by Donegal County Council in July which includes a strategic objective "To encourage and facilitate the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in County Donegal." • Biodiversity Officer: In partnership with The Heritage Council, Donegal County Council is in the process of appointing a Biodiversity Officer who will be based in the Culture Division of the Housing, Corporate & Culture Directorate. • Pollinator workshops: In partnership with the County Library Service, the County Donegal Heritage Office sponsored ten 'Save Our Bees', five 'Wild About Nature' workshops for children and continued to distribute the Gardening for Biodiversity / Garraíodóireacht ar son na Bithéagsúlachta, and All-Ireland Pollinator Plan publications. • Reduced mowing: The Roads Areas Division funded and implemented pollinator projects on council lands in various locations (such as Falcarragh and Letterkenny) to demonstrate best practice such as increasing the 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' areas in general open space. • County Donegal Heritage Office in partnership with other Local Authority Heritage Offices, Biodiversity Offices and the National Biodiversity Data Centre sponsored the Local Authority Pollinator Awards as part of the National Tidy Towns Competition.
Dublin City Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised grass cutting contract: Further areas in parks, open spaces and roadside verges were identified to add to areas under the revised grass cutting contract for Dublin City, which has specific management measures to enable species-rich grassland to grow across the city's roadsides, public verges, riparian zones, riverbanks and parks. In particular, areas for short flowering meadows were identified as well as areas to be managed with one cut and lift per year, two cuts and lifts per year, and 'No Mow' May areas. Herbicide use is strictly prohibited under this contract. • Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services continued their Greening the City programme. This included opening an additional two inner city parks with pollinator friendly planting regimes. This brings the total of new parks since 2022 to six, which has converted over 2,000 m² of hard landscaped areas to planted areas suitable for pollinators, created 17,000 m² of new public open space, 4,500 m² of wildflower areas and 1km of native hedgerow. • The Parks Service continued to plant early spring flower bulbs, fruit trees and other perennial plants suitable for pollinators across the city's parks.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was promoted by the DCC Biodiversity Officer at large scale events, such as the Rose Festival in St Anne’s Park, where All-Ireland Pollinator Plan guidance documents were handed out to members of the public. Publications were also printed and provided to community groups for their own events across the city. • DCC’s Biodiversity Officer continued to support community groups across the city on implementing pollinator friendly initiatives in local areas and working on Local Area Biodiversity Action Plans. 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. Support was also provided to HX Grow in Harold’s Cross, who hosted a workshop with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan advising community groups on the actions they could take for pollinators.
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed saving course for communities: This is the second year of the seed saving course for communities as part of our DLR Local Soil Local Seed Project. DLR encourage the public and communities to learn to gather their own seed locally from pollinator areas and we host the seed saving course in our pollinator meadows across the county to allow people to learn to collect local native seed sustainably and to experience the surroundings of our DLR wild meadows and gain insight into the benefits of our pollinator areas. • Local Seed Harvesting and Conservation Grazing: DLR continue to carry out more large-scale seed harvest of our local seed in our large wild meadows and conservation grazing. The seed is then stored and used locally for projects and for the creation of pollinator areas from our local seed. • Development and pollinators: DLR have engaged with developers to re-use local soil and seed as part of developments and to also design wild meadows and other pollinator initiatives as part of development design. This includes encouraging development design to consider our DLR Ecological Network which includes our wildlife corridors, parks and pollinator areas and is part of our policy in the DLR County Development Plan and our DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan. • DLR have committed to expanding our pollinator areas across the county: DLR Biodiversity Officer hosted a staff workshop on the expansion of our pollinator areas and brainstorming any issues regarding the proposed expansion of pollinator areas, composting etc. • Coill 12an Óg Project: This is a native tree and hedgerow planting initiative for schools and is delivered by Biodiversity in Schools in 2023 and funded by a selection of county councils including DLRCC. Trees, especially those that produce blossoms and hedgerows can provide vital areas of food for pollinators from early spring through to late autumn.
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t Mow Let it Grow programme: Over long-flowering meadows in the council estate are managed through our Don’t Mow programme, totalling 9.5Ha. • Tree planting programme and Trees for Bees project: Over 4,500 native and pollinator friendly trees were planted on Council Estate including heritage apple, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Willow. • Bulbs for Bees project: 15,000 crocus bulbs were planted through ‘Bulbs for Bees’ project with 22 school and community group sessions in 2022/2023.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator education: The council ran 38 school and summer scheme workshops reaching 882 pupils, and seven public and community events or talks with a pollinator theme reaching 372 people.
Fingal County Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow Project: In conjunction with Hedgerows Ireland, the Biodiversity Team initiated a hedgerow survey of important and old hedgerows on public land. As part of the project a number of hedge laying training days occurred with local community groups. This was followed up a few months later by further training days where the laid hedge was infilled with native hedgerow species. The next phase of this project is due to take place in early 2024. • Changing the frequency of mowing at selected sites. The Biodiversity Team and the Operations Team worked on selected open spaces within housing estates to change grass cutting schedule from a 2-week rotation to a 4/6/8 week rotation, or longer cut. In some instances, we engaged contractors to remove the cut grass. • Co-funded research on alternatives to herbicides for public open spaces: The Biodiversity 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.
Galway City Council	May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Mow and Healthy Green Spaces: Galway City council is further extending the No Mow areas in the open spaces around the City. The total area under No Mow is 13.76ha. This is in line with GCC's policy to keep expanding the meadow programme in the city every year. The Healthy Green Spaces Initiative is in its third year and the No Mow areas in the estates are performing beyond expectations. Residents in these areas are seeing a reduction in grass energy and their native wildflowers increasing. In some areas, these activities are being adopted by neighbouring communities who want to see a wildflower meadow established in their local open space. Several dwarf apple trees were planted in number of estates across Galway City using no dig permaculture methods which protects soil organisms by reducing the need to break up the ground. • Hedge planting: Hedge planning has been undertaken around Community Allotments with a mixed hedge including native species of Hawthorn, Hazel and Guelder Rose has been planted by our Parks Operation Team. • Eyre Square Planting: Pollinator friendly planting works took place in June to ensure the raised beds in Eyre Square are looking colourful and provide much needed food for pollinating insects. • Herbicide Free: Recreation & Amenity is using alternatives to pesticides in an ambition to reduce/ eradicate the use of chemical pesticides. These trials are part of our duty under the Sustainable Use of Herbicide Directive which sets EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030. Galway City Council is committed to establish an Integrated Pest Management Control system designed to encourage trialling alternatives to pesticides. • Pond planting at Quincentennial Park: To manage the water quality of the ornamental pond at Quincentennial Park and provide a valuable habitat for local wildlife, GCC biodiversity officer with the support of An Taisce's Legacy4LIFE Pond Project, developed a planting plan. Planting commenced on the June 22nd with hundreds of native aquatic, marginal and wetland plants planted within and around the pond, to provide valuable habitat for our pollinators and aquatic biodiversity.
Galway County Council	October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Orchard Workshops: Two orchard management workshops were held at the Headford Community Orchard, as part of Galway County Council's National Biodiversity Week programme. The booked-out events were attended by a wide

		<p>range of groups and gave practical advice on tree selection, planting, pruning, disease control, propagating and maintenance programmes. These workshops formed part of a Tree Management Project funded by the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Fund and Galway County Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable & pollinator-friendly gardening courses: Three sustainable & pollinator-friendly gardening courses were held across the county in 2023. The topics covered in the course included reduced mowing regimes, planting for pollinators and organic gardening solutions to common challenges. Printed resources from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan were shared with attendees. • Adoption of Pesticide Use Plan: Galway County Council's Sustainable Plant Management Plan was adopted in September 2023. This plan sets out to significantly reduce pesticide use by the local authority, with alternative control measures presented to staff. This will plan will direct systemic changes within the organisation to operational procedures in routine maintenance and the management of landbanks. • Weed or Wildflower Swatches: These bilingual Weed or Wildflower swatches, developed by horticulturist Kay Synott for Galway County Council, showcase common wildflowers and document the biodiversity they support. Volume 1 was launched at a Wildflower Workshop at Brigit's Garden, Rosscahill and has been circulated to community groups around the county. Volume 2, featuring even more common wildflowers, was produced this year and will be launched as part of Galway County Council's National Biodiversity Week programme in May 2024. The swatches and wildflower workshop were funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund through the National Parks & Wildlife Service. • Park Management for Pollinators: The Palace Grounds is a 27 acre parkland in the centre of Tuam. Large swaths of the grassland in the park have been managed using a reduced mowing regime, with a single cut and lift in the Autumn. Signage from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is on display during the spring and summer to inform the public that it is being managed for wildlife. Additional native trees were planted in the park as part of the An Choill Bheag initiative. These trees will also play an important role in supporting the pollinators in the park.
<p>Kerry County Council</p>	<p>June 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator-friendly mowing: 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. • Training: Tralee Municipal District in collaboration with several community organisations have delivered the following training relating to implementation of the Pollinator Plan targeting both council staff and the general public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tidy towns and team Bramble gave a talk to Mercy Mounthalk students. ○ From the Ground up in collaboration with MTU students conducted research regarding awareness of attitude to Biodiversity in Tralee. • Media Campaign to encourage the mapping of Pollinators on the national biodiversity centre by Tralee Tidy Towns. • Pollinator/ Biodiversity training to all Tralee MD outdoor staff with a specific focus on management of grass areas for pollinators. A total of 52.34 acres are currently being managed for biodiversity in Tralee MD area.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator friendly planting in Tralee MD area including native Hedging in Clash – 300 Whitethorn plants. • Planted 2,560 pollinator-friendly spring bulbs including Muscari, Snowdrop, Crocus and native Bluebell. • Tralee Town Centre Planters – Nine Planters in the town Square, four additional planters along Bridge Street and the Mall including pollinator-friendly plants. • Pollinator-friendly hedgerow: Tralee Bay Wetlands with support from Kerry County Council have added 235m of pollinator friendly hedgerow and 336m of willow fencing. A total of 2000 native trees have been added to the site through these various planting regimes since 2018. Four perennial beds and two ornamental beds have also been transitioned to pollinator friendly plants and several hundred pollinator friendly bulbs have been added to the site. Bare sand areas and dirt mounds have been kept clear of vegetation this year to improve habitat for bees and other burrowing insects, drilled holes have been added to dead standing trees and the mortar in stone walls to increase habitat for solitary bees. The use of pesticides and herbicides has been removed from the site. Educational signage has been erected to highlight areas managed for pollinators and the Business supporter sign is displayed at the entrance.
Kildare County Council	February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no updates from this council for 2023.
Kilkenny County Council	February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Districts/Facilities: Kilkenny County Council maintain two meadow areas within Kilkenny City; Dukesmeadow and the Bishops Meadows; 3.7ha and 6.3ha respectively, in Callan, the Abbey Meadow continues to be cut once a year. To raise awareness of the importance of these meadows, a series of community workshops were held over the summer, integrated into Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and a series of workshops ran by the Kilkenny Library Service. • Training of County Council Staff associated with the Councils Area Offices: In October, workshops were held to inform staff associated with the Area Offices focusing on three areas, this was to inform the best practice for pollinators in relation to Hedgerow Management, Grass Verge Management and Tree Maintenance. A second session was held specifically for the General Service Supervisors who work on the ground and supervise the general operatives, including the OPW gardening staff of Kilkenny Castle who showcased their different pollinator and biodiversity projects which are ongoing on the park grounds. With the knowledge presented to the staff, operations will change to improve habitats and food sources for pollinators. • Distribution of Pollinator Resources: Over the summer, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan resource materials were distributed to different key groups. • Kilkenny GAA: A talk was provided to the Kilkenny GAA County Board, to introduce the pollinator resources for Clubs and the GAA Green Clubs initiative was also highlighted. • Pollinator resources for community groups were provided to all the attending groups to the May Tidy Towns Forum. A further presentation in November will reinforce the pollinator message with the review of the recently completed three community biodiversity action plans under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. • Pollinator resources are being provided to the volunteers undertaking a Creative Ireland project, centred on bees and their importance in pollinating which will showcase in 2024 and is being coordinated by the Kilkenny Volunteer Centre.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers were provided with resources as part of their summer training course, and a pollinator talk was provided by the Biodiversity Officer. • Biodiversity Education for Schools: In 2023, Kilkenny County Council ran two different programmes to assist pollinators: Coill Na nOg was coordinated by Biodiversity in Schools funded through the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund. This initiative involved 41 schools, resulting in the creation of 23 mini school woodlands and 18 schools planting a collective length of 144m of pollinator friendly hedgerow. In another collaboration, the local Tidy Towns group, Keep Kilkenny Beautiful with the Heritage Office and the Environmental Awareness Officer asked Kilkenny Schools and afterschool groups to pledge three actions for biodiversity. They were then given biodiversity classroom resources and pollinator friendly plants. • Active Travel; Cootes Lane Project: Cootes Lane has been identified as an active travel corridor and a Biodiversity Plan has been implemented to make the area more attractive for pedestrians to use. Many of the actions are pollinator friendly, including the cessation of weedkiller spraying and planting of a large corridor of land, adjacent to the laneway with clover with a management plan to encourage flowers for pollinators. Other actions include the planting a length of native hedgerows and allowing ivy which has been previously cut allowed to grow to cover and create green walls. The Cootes Lane Active Travel Project is the first of its kind in Kilkenny to integrate biodiversity and pollinator measures into the design scheme and was completed with community stakeholders to ensure ownership as it develops.
Laois County Council	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Enhancement at Laois Education Centre: The Laois Education Centre has established a demonstration biodiversity garden, aiming to be a practical learning hub for teachers. Laois County Council commissioned a landscape design who utilised the 'Gardening for Biodiversity' booklet for inspiration. • Biodiversity planting on the Portlaoise Orbital Route: Consisted of diverse biodiversity-friendly planting by Laois County Council on main roundabouts in Portlaoise. This is planned to continue for the next three years learning from best practice i.e. most suitable and appropriate planting for the urban conditions and for maximum benefit to biodiversity and ease of maintenance. • Pollinator Awareness Radio Ads: A collaboration project between Laois, Offaly and Westmeath Heritage/ Biodiversity Offices and Midlands Radio 103. Infomercials were scripted on Biodiversity Awareness, the topics included: Trees, creating a wildlife Friendly Garden, Bulbs and Shrubs, Garden Bird Survey. This year we ran an expanded campaign on Midlands 103 Radio that included a full schedule of the nine infomercials as appropriate to the time of year. There was specific messaging around Biodiversity Week and hedgerow week also. The Schedule also included interviews with local Biodiversity champions in each of the counties and the Biodiversity Officer for Offaly County Council. In Your Nature Podcasts were broadcast on Midlands 103, bringing these nature topics to a wider listenership.
Leitrim County Council	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Tree Week: Environmental Awareness Officer distributed 300 native tree saplings to various community groups and Tidy Towns groups in March 2023.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and pollinator awareness training: The Heritage Officer organised six community training events in April and May 2023. The training took place in the communities of Carrigallen, Kinlough, Cloone, Manorhamilton, Fenagh and Carrick on Shannon. • Pesticide awareness campaign to protect water quality and pollinators: The Environment Department engaged with homeowners and farmers about the sustainable use of pesticides in their gardens and on their farms during scheduled septic tank inspections and farm inspections. Information leaflets were given to homeowners and farmers as part of the inspections and discussions. Pesticide awareness leaflets were distributed to property owners within the zone of contribution for three group water schemes in May 2023. Pesticide awareness social media posts were published on the Leitrim County Council social channels online and an article was published in the Leitrim Observer. • Love where you live awards: Leitrim County Council sponsored the categories of Cleaner & Greener, Primary Schools, Best Kept Estates and Heritage Champion at the awards ceremony in September 2023. Schools that entered the competition were visited by an environmental staff member who spoke to the children about biodiversity and the importance of protecting our pollinators. Landscaping and biodiversity formed part of the judging criteria for the categories of Cleaner & Greener and Best Kept Estates with special guest of honour Éanna Ní Lamhna who was a judge and she also spoke on the night of the awards. • Alternative use of non-toxic pesticides: Leitrim County Council outdoor staff have treated weeds on the pavements and roads in towns and villages in South Leitrim with Foamstream equipment. This new kit treats weeds without any nasty chemicals as it uses just hot water and a starch-based foam.
Limerick City & County Council	February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no updates from this council for 2023.
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally Friendly Weed Control Trial: The council successfully secured funding for this from the DAERA Environment Fund, Water Quality Improvement Strand. The funding awarded is for a biodiversity project to reduce the use of pesticides and improve water quality within Council sites located along the River Lagan. The funding is to purchase a pesticide free weed control machine. The trial has included the appointment of an ecologist to research, deliver training and trial environmentally friendly Weed Control methods within various council sites. Students from SERC College Lisburn, will assist the Biodiversity Officer in this research trial, as part of the continued partner working and raising environmental awareness amongst young adults. • Increasing the number of pesticide free areas and areas managed for wildlife: Cairnshill Playing fields, Carryduff Park, McIlroy Park, Glenmore Parkland Trail and Duncans Park were all sites identified for reducing grass cutting to one cut per year and reduced pesticide use to allow natural wildflowers to grow for pollinators. Areas within Castlereagh Hills Golf Course is being managed for wildlife and to promote actions for pollinators. In addition to the pollinator area being managed for biodiversity within Billy Neill MBE Country Park, an additional ½ an acre has been identified for wild bird cover and added to the management plan for the site.



Carryduff Park



Duncan's Park

- **Woodland restoration project:** This project involved the treatment and removal of a range of invasive non-native plant species and the subsequent planting of a range of native tree and shrub species to restore and enhance a long established woodland present across much of Derriagh River Glen, Dunmurry, Co. Antrim.

The native trees which were planted were grown locally in LCCC's very own tree nursery, which was funded through Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund. Sourcing locally-grown tree species reduces the carbon emissions of transporting trees from elsewhere, such as Europe. Native trees grown on the island of Ireland also prevent the spread of invasive species or disease, such as the case with ash dieback.

This site was identified for a woodland restoration project and the following work was completed, Approx. 3,000 native trees from Oak (Both Irish/Sessile & English/Pedunculate), Birch (Downy & Silver), Holly, Scots Pine, Rowan, Alder and Hawthorn planted with tree protection in the form of Biodegradable tree guards.

- Approx 250,000 Snowdrop and Bluebell bulbs have been planted.
- **Raising awareness, delivering biodiversity planting and horticulture projects to schools and the local community:**
- Providing support for planting projects and providing horticultural workshops within school grounds and council parks.
- Giving schools pollinator friendly bulbs (recommended by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan) to educate on how to make green spaces pollinator friendly.
- Attending events such as Park life, school projects, and community engagements, giving out the pollinator booklets and bee ID sheets from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- Also Promoting on social media, World bee day and using the pollinator signage for areas managed for wildlife.
- **Lough Moss Playing Fields:** Working with the local community creating a community allotment hub and enhancing biodiversity within the site, leaving areas uncut to encourage natural wildflower growth. Dedicating pesticide free areas and erecting biodiversity signage around the site to promote and raise awareness for biodiversity.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest in a Box: This project is to give every person who completes an LCCC woodland course with a box containing 1 x tree (whip), compost, tree stake, tree guard and simple instructions on how to plant and care for it.
Longford County Council	March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Biodiversity Officer: Longford County Council has recently appointed a new Biodiversity Officer who will work as part of the Climate Change team and formulate a biodiversity action plan for Co Longford. • Longford County Council Pollinator Signage: Longford County Council produced and erected new pollinator signage at various locations across the county. Our primary focus was the N4 and N5 Longford bypasses because a lot of good work has been done here over the years and we wanted to highlight this work to the public. • Biodiversity in Schools Workshops: Longford County Council have sponsored Biodiversity in Schools to do four workshops with Longford primary schools during the months of September and October. The workshops will concentrate on the importance of tree and hedgerow planting for biodiversity and pollinators. The workshops will be given to over 300 pupils. • Longford County Council and the Health Service Executive: Longford County Council are working with St Joseph's Health Care Centre Longford Town in developing a biodiversity plan for the campus. A biodiversity awareness day was held for staff and patients during the summer months. A consultant was appointed, and a biodiversity plan produced in September which covers implementing specific pollinator and biodiversity projects on the campus including planting of native flowering hedges and wildlife gardens. • Longford County Social Media: Longford County Council ran a social media campaign both internally and externally during National Tree Month to highlight the importance of planting trees for pollinators using assets provided by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. • Longford County Council Pollinator & Biodiversity talks: Longford County Council sponsored several talks on pollinators and biodiversity over the summer months. IPCC conducted these talks in the local libraries and at community events.
Louth County Council	July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead flower heads left in position for over-wintering/hibernating pollinators • Grass area behind (east of) County Hall left uncut. • Roadside verges in Dundalk left uncut for several months, and signage put up advising the public why this had taken place. • These actions were promoted on our 'Action for Biodiversity' Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/actionforbiodiversity/posts/pfbidOrTfD7YN46hEbg6wWFJcE6RkqFjVcBVPzda7XhxPr9eGwLcW7SYmSH5dxuzAWmhpXI
Mayo County Council	June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayo County Council Heritage Office is working in partnership with Mayo GAA and Castlebar Mitchels on the implementation of a Biodiversity Action Plan for the MacHale Park campus, which includes planting of pollinator-friendly plants and shrubs throughout the sports ground. • Mayo County Council provided support to Belmullet Tidy Towns under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to develop a series of short videos on the endangered Great Yellow Bumblebee. • A native woodland planting project is being carried out on community grounds in Ballyhaunis, under the 'An Choill Bheag' initiative of LEAF (Learning about Forests) Ireland, supported by Mayo County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund of

		<p>the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Working with Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns, a small dense biodiverse native woodland is being planted and managed, providing space for pollinator plants to grow and providing an amenity and outdoor learning space for the community and local schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop entitled ‘Seed-saving for Native Wildflower Areas’ was held in Carnacon Community centre, supported by Mayo County Council Heritage Office, under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. This practical workshop provided information to participants on the value of native wildflowers in the local environment, what species to collect when growing from seed and when to collect them and strategies for establishment of native wildflower areas.
Meath County Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Biodiversity Actions Plans Grant Scheme 2023: A grant scheme to support communities in Meath who have developed a Community Biodiversity Action Plan for their local town or village. Project supports included dispersed urban orchard in Navan, biodiversity workshop in Kells, pollinator friendly planting project in Trim, Athboy, Slane, Julianstown, Killyon, Rathcairn and Ratoath in accordance with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Meath County Council under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023. • Biodiversity Detectives Schools Programme: Working in partnership with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC), Primary schools in Meath were offered the opportunity to take part in a bespoke Biodiversity educational programme linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths element of the curriculum that supports Social, Environmental and Science Education (SESE). 45 schools participated and each school received a biodiversity box of resources to support pupil learning including Developing a Pollinator Plan Resources for your School, Top Ten Pollinator Actions, Pots for Pollinators and identification swatches. • No Mow May Navan Initiative: Meath County Council (Navan Municipal District) working in partnership with Wild About Navan and Johnstown Tidy Towns participated in No Mow May. It was agreed that several public spaces, housing estates and verges would be left unmowed, signs were put in place to inform the public and with an awareness and educational campaign ran online. • Sustainable and pollinator friendly gardening course: The Heritage Office organised a course that took place across 22/06/23 and 29/06 2023. 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. • Urban Biodiversity Audits: Trim, Navan and Kells were surveyed, mapped and assessed to identify key ecological corridors and sites of local biodiversity value for pollinators. This work was supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Meath County Council under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023.
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity University 2023: During this environmental summer scheme, children learned through fun activities how to protect our native habitats and their pollinators. By learning about the challenges and solutions for pollinator conservation, children can become more aware and responsible citizens who can make a difference in their communities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native Wild Hedges at our biggest allotment site: Eden Allotments is the largest allotment garden in Northern Ireland. We manage all the verges and native hedgerows for Biodiversity by letting them go 'wild' with beautiful nettles and other wild plants and flowers which provide a food source and home for many pollinators. • Big Community Tree Giveaway: as part of Tree Week, we are giving away over 600 free tree saplings, including pollinator friendly species such as Rowan, Wild cherry, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, and Crab apple, to residents in the Borough. This is funded by the Woodland Trust through Emergency Tree Fund and organised through three Community Tree Giveaways which enable residents to collect up to three saplings. This campaign will also encourage landowners to engage with our Tree and Woodland Officer and Woodland Engagement Officer to plan future native and pollinator friendly tree planting.
Mid Ulster District Council	April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator Friendly Grasslands: Mid Ulster has a number of sites managed for pollinators through 'Don't Mow, Let it Grow' (one cut & lift per year). In 2023, there has been a net gain to the suite of sites under this management. Mid Ulster council now have 15 sites (ranging from 0.1 to 1.1 Hectares) totalling just over 6 Hectares actively managed for pollinators. It is anticipated the number of sites will continue to increase over the coming years. • Signage to identify pollinator friendly habitats: All current Pollinator Friendly Grassland sites have had signage installed, identifying the areas as being managed for pollinators. • Training on pollinators and how to take action to protect them: Five workshops were delivered to youth groups, gardening clubs and the general public. These workshops explained the benefits of pollinators, encouraged participants to grow pollinator friendly plants, encouraged participants to provide areas for pollinators to make their own 'natural' homes, and provided a practical demonstration on making solitary bee homes. Participants made their own bee home which they took away with them to put up in their own garden/allotment/etc. • Plant a native hedgerow: Four local schools visited Tullyvar to help plant a native hedgerow. Species were selected to provide a range of pollen and nectar for our local pollinators. It is envisaged this will become an annual event for the next number of years, creating native hedgerows throughout the site. • Install bee homes: Building on the success of the use by pollinators of the smaller bee homes installed in 2022, several more were installed at appropriate locations in 2023. It is planned to undertake workshops with council staff and local community groups to build more small bee homes from recycled timber from the council recycling centres. These will be put in place at suitable locations over the coming years.
Monaghan County Council	June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Districts/Facilities: This is the 4th year of Monaghan's Pollinator Friendly Grass Management Programme. This encompasses 4.5 hectares across three areas (1 hectare in Monaghan town, 3 hectares at Lough Muckno and half a hectare in Ballybay). This involves allowing the natural grass to grow and only cutting once per year with vegetation being cut and removed in September each year to encourage the establishment of wildflower meadows. 'No Mow May' is being actively promoted by Monaghan County Council. • Sustainable and pollinator friendly gardening course: The Heritage Office organised an event for Heritage Week that took place on 15/8/23. This was a joint event between the Biodiversity Officer and the Horticulturalist demonstrating pollinator

		<p>planting and the variety of pollinator insect species, plus a tree talk at the Hilton Park Estate. Attendees were given 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 participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composting Organic Waste Pilot Project: Monaghan MD has been trialling the collection of organic horticultural waste (grass clippings, leaf litter and green cuttings) and composting, with a view to using the compost in future pollinator friendly plantings. If successful, it will be rolled out to other MD's and used as a free resource for schools and community groups to create pollinator friendly gardens. • Reduced herbicide use: Monaghan MD is now using a weed scuffer for urban weed control and use of herbicide has been cut to just 4 litres a year. This ensures that pollinator insects are not wiped out by excessive pesticide use. • Perennial planting scheme: Monaghan County Council, through their Horticulturalist, is preferentially using perennial planting schemes to extend the flowering season, with minimal reliance on hanging baskets and containers. Plants are being planted directly into the ground, with immediate water savings being noted. Native species are being used where possible.
<p>Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p>	<p>September 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Biodiversity Enhancement Fund: In the 2023 financial assistance funding call, five local groups were funded to make improvements for biodiversity. Every group's work included native planting to improve their area for pollinators. • Tree Planting: Over the past year, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have undertaken numerous tree planting schemes to increase tree cover and improve the district for biodiversity. Examples include planting 2000 native trees in a socially deprived area of Newry city, 1000 native trees at the Pond Field in Bessbrook, as well as replacement planting of specimen trees in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. Pollinator friendly species used included Wild Cherry and Rowan. The Geopark and AONB Team have purchased 230 fruit trees to be given out to community groups to create their own orchards. • Raising awareness of Pollinators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The council Biodiversity Officer raises awareness of the importance of pollinators through public events, school workshops and by using social media and other media outlets. ○ The council promoted 'No Mow May' through their social media channels, encouraging residents to take part. ○ The council procured a designer to print out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Bookmark and distributed it for free at various events throughout the year, including a large 'age-friendly' event which was attended by hundreds of residents. ○ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council were awarded a Local Government Chronicle Award in London in June for our 'Bees at Aughnagun' project. The Biodiversity Officer promoted the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan during her presentation to judges, and highlighted the fact that honeybees are only one species of pollinator, compared to the many other wild bee species we have. ○ The Biodiversity Officer provided advice to schools, community groups, sports clubs & businesses on how to create pollinator friendly greenspaces.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Action for Pollinators: A new Biodiversity Strategy has been drafted for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The Strategy highlights ‘Pollinators’ as one of five key priorities for Council moving forward. It is hoped the Strategy will go out to public consultation in December and will be ratified by full Council early in the new year.
Offaly County Council	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘No mow May’ initiative was continued in 2023. • The use of non-glyphosate herbicide by our MD Offices continued in 2023 as part of the county policy on glyphosate use. • The council hosted its Offaly Naturalists Field Club Summer School 3rd – 7th of July on the topic of “Pollination and Pollinators”. The summer school was booked-out with lectures and field visits taking place in Offaly and on the Burren. • Offaly County Council purchased two high-temperature steam machines for urban “weed” treatment, this mitigates for the use of glyphosate and similar weed control chemicals in Offaly’s towns. The fleet will be increased to increase capacity for this type of management. • Syngfield Demesne: The council actioned plans on site to include planting of shelter belts, native hedgerows and manage the grassland to increase sward diversity, all funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. • Midlands 103 Radio Broadcasts: working with Laois and Westmeath County Council we continued our pollinator infomercial series on Midlands 103. Funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. • Management of Graveyards: Cut and lift management continued at over six medieval burial grounds in Offaly. The Environment Section is managing cut and lift in sections of modern burial grounds, and management plans will be formalised before the end of 2023. • Wildflower Seed Saving Workshops were hosted in several locations in the county in September 2023, aimed at local communities harvesting seed locally to be used locally.
Roscommon County Council	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Pollinator Awards’ were incorporated into the new Roscommon County Council Greener Spaces Competition, which was launched in May 2023. 15 Pollinator Awards will be given out under categories of schools, burial grounds, estates and ‘other’ at the Greener Spaces Awards ceremony which will take place in December 2023. • An ‘Orchards Perfect for Pollinators’ & ‘Planting Trees for Pollinators’ programme was supported in conjunction with Ballyleague Men’s Shed and the Roscommon County Council Housing Accommodation Caretaker. • Council actions for pollinators were reviewed and updated for six council area offices by Giorria Environmental Services with all actions updated on the National Biodiversity Data Centre’s Actions for Pollinators mapping system. • Ballyleague Men’s Shed was commissioned to make 25 bee hotels for Roscommon County Council. These will be distributed by the Heritage Officer this winter. • Pollinator Plan resources and signage were distributed to council staff and community groups around the county. Roscommon County Council supported the Tidy Towns Local Authority Pollinator Awards. • Roscommon County Council Actions for pollinators were supported by the National Parks & Wildlife Service under the National Biodiversity Action plan (2017-2021).

<p>Sligo County Council</p>	<p>July 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sligo is Buzzing Campaign - infomercials: The Heritage Office ran a four-week awareness campaign (May 2023) raising awareness of pollinators and actions that individuals and local communities can undertake to support their conservation. It included over 100 adverts/infomercials on local radio station (Ocean FM) on the following themes: don't mow let it grow, hedgerows, herbs, reducing pesticide use, and trees for pollinators. The campaign was funded by Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan Programme. • Sligo is Buzzing Campaign – Biodiversity Week interview slots on Ocean FM: The Heritage Office ran a Biodiversity Week awareness campaign (May 2023) raising awareness of biodiversity, including pollinators and actions that individuals and local communities can undertake to support their conservation. It included a 15 minute slot on NW today with two interviewees talking on a biodiversity topic and the biodiversity projects that they are involved in. Funded by Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan Programme. • The Parks Department & staff: 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 2023 until after the first flush of early wildflowers had gone to seed.
<p>South Dublin County Council</p>	<p>November 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow management: Our Public Realm Department manage 165 hectares of grassland as natural meadows for pollinators. • Short-flowering meadow trial: In 2022 we began trialling short flowering meadows which are cut every 6 weeks. These are mainly in residential areas. We now have 20 hectares being managed in this way. We are using this trial as a way of engaging with residents and community groups and resident's groups will be able to request this type of grassland management for their areas. • Meadow surveys: 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. • Pollinator walks: 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. • Raising awareness: Providing information to our customers on the All-Ireland 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.
<p>Tipperary County Council</p>	<p>April 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Heritage Office and Environmental Office ran free Sustainable Gardening courses for Tidy Towns and members of the public focusing on supporting pollinators with gardening. • Clonmel Municipal District continued its wildflower meadow management on Frank Drohan Road and the roundabouts in Clonmel. • The Heritage Office supported groups through Heritage Week Grant scheme to highlight biodiversity and the importance of pollinators.

<p>Waterford City & County Council</p>	<p>April 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurles/Templemore MD and Heritage Office supported a Biodiversity Action Plan for Templemore Town Park. • Reduced Mowing on Cumann na mBan Ring Road, Waterford City, Estuary Road, Tramore and Kilbarry Nature Park. Change in management practice has had very positive effect with recordings in Tramore meadows of <i>Bombus muscorum</i> and <i>Colletes floralis</i> (rare solitary bees). These are two species that are vulnerable on the European Red List. This success demonstrates that bees will respond when habitats are allowed flourish. • Waterford Council Biodiversity Meadows: we have been expanding our biodiversity meadows to include several open space residential areas in the city. • Pollinator Friendly Planting on the approach roads in Dungarvan. • Policy: Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes policies promoting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan e.g. Section 9.6 BD02, BD11 and BD20. • Awareness: Waterford City and County Council Heritage Officer and Environmental Awareness Officer provide advice to community groups on pollinator friendly planting and biodiversity projects.
<p>Westmeath County Council</p>	<p>February 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned pollinator adverts on regional radio: The Heritage Office, in partnership with Laois and Offaly Heritage officers, again 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. • Provided free sustainable and pollinator friendly gardening workshops: The Heritage Office and the PPN co-funded two workshops to provide advice and support to interested members of the public on supporting biodiversity and pollinators in the garden. These workshops were delivered by Anna Browne (flower gardener and National Biodiversity Data Centre recorder). • Planting and Landscaping on the Old Rail Trail: Actions carried out to enhance biodiversity along the Old Rail Trail itself and to promote it as a habitat corridor within the overall landscape. Grassland management (cut and lift 4 times per annum). Ash trees replacement programme with native trees and shrubs including Rowan, Spindle, and Holly. • Managed an area of Council lands in Coolure Demense for pollinators: particularly focusing on Marsh Fritillary Butterfly – seasonal grazing on part of the site as advised in Biodiversity Management Plan prepared for the site. • Reduction in the use of herbicide: Westmeath County Council only sprayed housing estates in the charge of Westmeath County Council on the request of the Residents Association through the opt in opt out scheme. No spraying within Mullingar Town Park. • Mulching: Any mulching works carried out in the district will generally be recycled and used in flower beds to reduce herbicide. • Reduced hedge cutting: Reduced hedge cutting and prioritising hedgerow cutting where necessary for Health and Safety. • Tree planting: In 2023 MDMK have planted over 100 native species. • Pollinator friendly shrubs: over 1200 pollinator friendly shrubs planted in various areas in the district. • Hedging: over 5000 native species of hedging planted at various locations.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced mowing: less mowing of green areas where possible to promote pollinator friendly wildlife. Lifting of cut grass to reduce soil fertility. • Roundabouts in the Athlone Moate Municipal District grass managed by cut and lift 2-5 times per annum.
Wexford County Council	April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Planting: 2500 native trees planted at three sites as part of the 100 million tree project – 1000 planted in Gorey District Park; 100 in The Halo GAA Centre of Excellence Ferns and 500 planted in Mn Ryan Park. • Trees for Wexford scheme: 150 groups applied, and 8957 trees/saplings distributed including a variety of native tree saplings, hedgerow species and fruit trees. • National Tree Week: the council distributed 500 native saplings to community groups. • Funded 21 schools for Coill na nÓg in 2023, a native tree and hedgerow planting campaign for schools. • Pollinator Friendly Planting: 6,000 pollinator friendly plants and grasses planted between Enniscorthy Technology Park and Min Ryan Park and 3200 pollinator friendly bulbs planted in Min Ryan Park. • Reduced Mowing: Management of public green spaces with pollinator friendly mowing regimes. The council created a long-flowering meadow in Min Ryan Park, with a cut once a year. • Surveys: Baseline hedgerow survey completed in 2023 and Phase 2 Wetlands Survey completed in Gorey/Kilmuckridge Area. • Planting sustainable grant: 84 community groups applied for this grant – only pollinator friendly perennials were eligible under the grant. • Pollinator Resources: Resources distributed to schools, community groups and individuals. Links circulated to Tidy Towns groups to all pollinator.ie resources and Managed for Wildlife signs distributed to Tidy Towns and community groups on request. • Reimagining Enniscorthy Public Events and Awareness initiatives: these events have included seed swaps, a seed sowing and harvesting workshop, and a hedgerow walk.
Wicklow County Council	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator resources: The Heritage Officer distributed a range of free resources including ‘Pledge your Garden for Pollinators’ and ‘Gardening for Biodiversity’. Over 500 ‘managed for wildlife’ and ‘Don’t mow let it Grow’ outdoor signs distributed to MDs and members of public. Distributed pollinator resources at ‘Best of Wicklow’ stand at the Tinahely Agricultural Show and at Wicklow County Council’s stand at the Ashford Honey Festival in September. • 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 Office hosted a one day ‘Let’s Get Buzzing’ event held on 15th April in An Tearman, Baltinglass with a key audience of Tidy Towns and other community-based 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 regime and included pollinator friendly species in new planning schemes on roundabouts, verges, and other areas.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 weed control techniques involving metal brush sweepers and increased use of strimmers are being used 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. • Conservation Management of Council owned Lands: The Climate Action Team is leading the development of best practice management prescriptions for council owned lands at Bray Head, Wicklow Head and at Clermont Campus with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and making landscapes more pollinator friendly. A conservation management plan for council owned land at Bray head was adopted in September with a focus on pollinator friendly management on old par 3 lands.
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We were unable to make contact with Ards and North Down Borough Council and Limerick City & County Council as part of this review process. More complete attempts will be made in 2024, as it may be a result of staff or role changes.

The 2023 report was 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 Company Limited by Guarantee. Register Number: 730718.



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



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

