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Business Supporters Newsletter: December 2023

The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#) (AIPP) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can 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 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: ARUP, Gilbert Ash, Dwellings Developments Limited and Ardagh Group.

Sarah Kelly
Agri/Business officer

WILD BEE WATCH: keep an eye out for winter bumblebees

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



SUBMIT SIGHTINGS HERE of bumblebees

TO DO THIS MONTH: take some Willow cuttings

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

Spring is when hunger gaps are most likely to occur

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



POLLINATOR/BIODIVERSITY PLANNING FOR 2024?

Check pollinators.ie for evidence-based actions

When planning your pollinator-biodiversity actions for 2024 (including sponsorship) don't forget to use the [Resources](#) section of pollinators.ie to check your actions are evidence-based.







- Whether it's [planning to plant](#), [mowing less in grassy areas](#), [pollinator-friendly hedgerow management](#), or [native trees](#) or [orchards](#), check in with pollinators.ie.
- Thinking about a [sensory garden](#) or a [car park](#) upgrade? Or going [solar](#) or catching the [wind](#)? Check in with pollinators.ie.
- Promoting nature in the context of health and wellbeing for employees? Check in with [FAQs for business on pollinators.ie](#).
- Wanting to engage employees and your Green Team in nature-related, scientifically robust monitoring projects? Check out the simple weekly [Flower Insect Timed \(FIT\) Counts](#) and a little more challenging (but very do-able) monthly [Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme](#).
- Looking for a specific pollinator to focus on which you might attract to your site? Check out the simple actions for the rare and beautiful [Large Carder Bee](#) guidelines and where it has already been [spotted](#).
- And remember, don't go changing what's already great. If you're not sure, commission a baseline ecological survey through the [Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management](#) (include the *National Pollinator Monitoring Methodology*) and ask them to help you create a pollinator-biodiversity plan suitable for your site.
- Not sure where to find the information? Email Sarah Kelly skelly@biodiversityireland.ie

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan


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. It is implemented by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

One third of our wild bee species is threatened with extinction. This is mainly because we have drastically reduced the amount of food and safe nesting sites that support them. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a shared plan of action: together, we can take steps to restore pollinator populations to healthy levels.


There are simple ways everyone can help, whether you have a business, a farm, a community group, a garden, or a window box. On this website you will find information about our work and campaigns, and free resources to help you learn more about our different pollinators and what you can do to help them.

 NEW: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	 Progress: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020	 Farmland	 Councils
 Businesses	 Communities	 Sports Clubs	 Transport Corridors
 Schools & Campuses	 Gardens	 Site-specific guidelines	 Helping endangered pollinators
 Faith Communities	 National Initiative Toolkit	 Pollinator Research	

 [Top ten actions for pollinators](#)

 [Add your actions to our map](#)

 [Flower-Insect Timed \(FIT\) Count](#)

 [Pledge your garden for pollinators](#)

The Buzz

The Problem With Wildflower Seed Mixes
 Find out why we don't recommend sowing wildflower seed mixes, and how they can do more harm than good to biodiversity. [Details](#)

December Pollinator Plan newsletter
 Reviews of what has happened in 2023, updates from the pollinator research network. Lots of news in our latest issue [Details](#)

Create a natural wildflower meadow
 Don't Mow, Let it Grow! Pollinators don't want you to plant wildflower seed - they want you to allow common wildflowers to grow naturally. Learn how by watching these videos [Details](#)

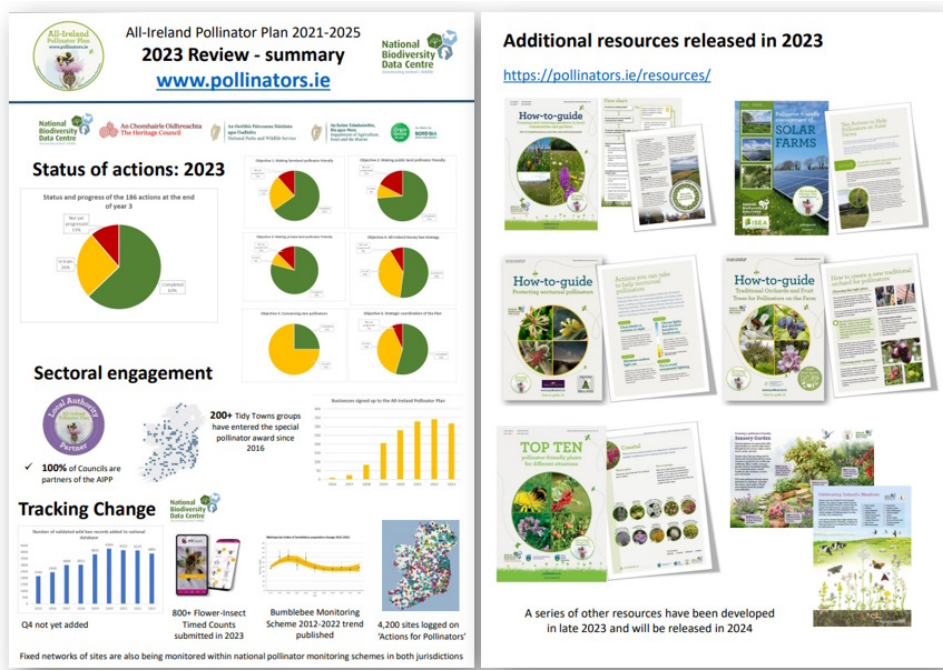
Bumblebee Identification: A Free Online Course
 Learn to identify our 6 most common bumblebees. There are activities and quizzes to test your progress and get feedback on answers. [Details](#)

Twitter feed is not available at the moment.

RESOURCES SECTION on www.pollinators.ie

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - (Main) Annual Review 2023

Annual reporting is a very important part of the AIPP and is carried out across all our networks of partners and supporters. The core review (as opposed to the Business Supporters Annual Review) is that of the Plan itself, and the 186 actions agreed for 2021-2025. Responsibility for delivery of these actions is shared out between the supporting partner organisations. Huge thanks to all of our partners for providing their annual updates. We are seeing very positive engagement and real commitment from all. Of the 186 actions in the Plan, **89%** were completed for 2023 or are currently in train. NOTE: The Annual Review 2023 for Business Supporters will be published in January 2024.



READ MORE & access the full review

Council Partners - Annual Review 2023

All 42 Councils across the island have now partnered with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Their annual review gives a flavour of the incredible work carried out by each to support the Plan in 2023. Every Council is different, as reflected in the differing focus and the wide range of actions reported. What is very clear is that Councils have embraced the Plan and are changing the way our landscape is managed for the better.

For each existing Council Partner, the point of contact was requested to provide up to five short bullet point updates on their activities in 2023. The photograph below shows 'No Mow May' implemented at Clare County Council Headquarters in Ennis.



[READ MORE & access the review](#)

POLLINATOR RESEARCH: Irish Pollinator Research Network publishes 30 scientific papers in 2023!

In 2023, an incredible 30 scientific papers on pollinators were published by Irish researchers. These scientists are part of the [Irish Pollinator Research Network](#). Their work underpins the objectives, actions and recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The 2023 publications cover many important topics, from grassland management, to how bees respond to changes to weather, what we know about cuckoo bumblebees, emerging threats, and how pollinators are being impacted by pesticides.

The full list of publications has been compiled by Professor Jane Stout (Trinity College Dublin).



[READ MORE & access the list](#)

THANK YOUs: To the team, and to the funders

Thanks to colleagues in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team within the National Biodiversity Data Centre for their excellent work in supporting the activities of the Plan in 2023:

- Dr Úna FitzPatrick, All Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group Chair
- Kate Chandler - Communities and Engagement Officer
- Ruth Wilson - Farmland Officer
- Sarah Kelly - Agri-business Officer

Funders

We particularly thank the funders, without whom it would be impossible to have the three officer posts: the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine & Bord Bia Origin Green.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group

Huge thanks to the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group](#) for engaging with the Plan so constructively and for continually providing such a positive steer of the initiative

Implementation of the Plan is coordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#).

Large Carder Bumblebee ©Micheal O'Briain



RESOURCES to help the Large Carder Bee

THANK YOU for YOUR support

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a *shared plan of action*. It is about all of us coming together to try to create an island where pollinators can survive and thrive. The easy part is identifying what we need to do, the hard part is making it happen on the ground. The success of the Plan is entirely due to your support, goodwill, and enthusiasm. We extend our enormous thanks to everyone who has taken actions and engaged with the Plan this year. We look forward to lots more progress and new initiatives in 2024.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Dr Úna FitzPatrick & Sarah Kelly
National Biodiversity Data Centre

Tawny Mining Bee © Neil Halligan



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