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## New Pollinator Plan guidelines for business

Dear All

We are delighted to be releasing an update of our '*Businesses: actions for pollinators*' guidelines and hope you find structures to help as your business moves further towards nature-positive.

The 15-member All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group oversees the implementation of the AIPP. This is reviewed annually to ensure that expertise on the group reflects the key tasks that are being undertaken in any given year.

The AIPP is also supported by the [Irish Pollinator Research Network](#). We are grateful to this community of [academic researchers](#) who continually help improve our knowledge and underpin the advice we provide. [Thirty pollinator-related PhDs were published in 2023](#).

**Sarah Kelly**  
**Agri/Business officer**

### **National Biodiversity Data Centre**

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](#).

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**NEW POLLINATOR PLAN GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS:**

**Businesses: actions to help pollinators**

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) is delighted to announce new AIPP resource guidelines **Businesses: actions to help pollinators**.

These guidelines were first published in 2016, in collaboration with Bord Bia. This new iteration provides further structure to the AIPP evidence-based actions, particularly in relation to ‘communications and governance’, as businesses increasingly move towards nature-positive.

The new guidelines still provide an ‘entry-level into biodiversity’ feel with 33 accessible actions for businesses of all sizes and sectors to choose from. There are also two new self-scoring/assessment additions including the new *'Business Scoring for Pollinators Checklist'* (Pages 33-35) a points-based system, and the *Car Park Assessment Table - Bronze Silver Gold levels* (Page 31).

We are so grateful to Bord Bia Origin Green who provide funding for the Agri-business officer position and have supported the AIPP since its inception.

Deirdre Ryan, Director of Sustainability and Quality Assurance at Bord Bia Origin Green said:

‘We have supported the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan since its inception and continue to provide funding for the Agri-business officer position and marketing collateral. The *Businesses: actions to help pollinators* guidelines and support available assists our members in their understanding of evidence-based pollinator-biodiversity actions and we are delighted to see this key document come to fruition in 2024.’



**RESOURCE Businesses: actions to help pollinators**

**NEW SCORING TABLE:**

**Business Scoring for Pollinators Checklist**

The **Business Scoring for Pollinators Checklist** on Pages 33-35 of **Businesses: actions to help pollinators** is a self-assessment scoring tool to be used alongside the recommendations in this guideline.

The Checklist is divided into two sections. The first section ‘On-site actions’ refers to actions taken on a

physical site or sites. The second section, 'Communication and governance actions' refers to actions taken through company governance and communications. Every company is different, and not all companies will score under each section.

It is designed to:

- Help you choose and prioritise actions that are suitable for your business.
- Show how valuable each action is compared with the others.
- Help you determine a 'pollinator-friendly score threshold' to aim for.
- Help you track your progress over time, scoring your business year on year as your work develops.

## Business Scoring for Pollinators Checklist

This checklist is a self-assessment scoring tool to be used alongside the recommendations in this guideline. It is designed to:

### SECTION 1: On-site actions to help pollinators

ACTIONS	Max. score	Yearly score
<b>A. Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators</b>	<b>20</b>	
1 Create an On-site Map of existing sources of food and shelter	2	
2 Develop a plan to protect existing areas of biodiversity	5	
3 Identify which pollinators have already been spotted in your local area	3	
4 Carry out a baseline ecological survey on your site(s) including tailored advice for managing it	10	
<b>B. Mow less in grassy areas</b>	<b>20</b>	
5 Create a short-flowering meadow		
Manage at least one third of all grassy areas as short-flowering meadows through reduced mowing.	10	
6 Create a long-flowering meadow		
Aim to create as much long-flowering meadow as your site allows through reduced mowing. It can be in multiple locations across the site.	10	
<b>C. Pollinator-friendly planting</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Native planting:</b>		
7 Maintain or plant a native flowering hedgerow		
Manage at least 30m of native hedgerow on your business site.	6	
8 Plant native, local provenance, pollinator-friendly trees and shrubs		

Ornamental planting:		
9 Plant an orchard of flowering fruit trees		
Create at least one heritage fruit orchard, with at least five fruit trees.	3	
10 Plant pollinator-friendly ornamental trees and shrubs		
At least 50% of ornamental trees and shrubs are pollinator-friendly and planted in appropriate locations.	2	
11 Plant pollinator-friendly perennials		
Create at least three beds of pollinator-friendly perennials, each at least 2m <sup>2</sup> . 1 point per 2m <sup>2</sup> .	3	
12 Plant pollinator-friendly bulbs		
At least 50% of all bulbs planted are pollinator-friendly.	2	
13 Add pollinator-friendly bedding plants to containers and hanging baskets		
Mix pollinator-friendly plants into at least 75% of all containers/ hanging baskets.	1	
<b>D. Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat</b>	<b>5</b>	
14 Provide nesting habitat for bumblebees		
Leave at least 30m <sup>2</sup> of undisturbed long grass as nesting sites for bumblebees and other insects.	2	
15 Provide nesting habitat for mining solitary bees		
Minimum of least ten areas of bare soil for solitary wildflower bees, each with an area of at least 1m <sup>2</sup> .	1	

### SECTION 2: Communication & governance actions to help pollinators

ACTIONS	Max. score	Yearly score
<b>Raise awareness of pollinators within your value chain</b>	<b>40</b>	
<b>Raise awareness in your supply chain:</b>		
23 Promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to suppliers	15	
Raise awareness in your local community:		
24 Sponsor pollinator activities in your local area	10	
25 Work with others to create wildlife corridors in your local area	10	
<b>Raise awareness with employees:</b>		
26 Promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to employees on a monthly basis	5	
<b>Company governance and accountability</b>	<b>60</b>	
27 Acknowledge your support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan	5	
28 Include key pollinator issues and events in your communications plan	5	
29 Appoint a Biodiversity Champion and develop an in-house Green Team	5	
30 Integrate the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan/Biodiversity into your ESG	10	
31 Engage at a corporate level with other key national biodiversity related initiatives	10	
32 Ensure the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommendations are included in all procurement and tendering	15	
33 Invest financially in pollinator friendly nature-positive research projects on the Island of Ireland	10	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	

## RESOURCE Businesses: actions to help pollinators

**SUBSCRIBE: Business Supporters monthly newsletter (encourage employees and colleagues)**



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