

# Environmental Awareness Newsletter

## Summer Edition

### Upcoming environmental dates

- **World Bee Day** - is on 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2020
- **International Day for Biological Diversity** – is on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. This day raises awareness on the importance of biodiversity and the danger of biodiversity loss. The 2020 theme is 'our solutions are in nature'.
- **UNEP World Environment Day** - held annually on June 5<sup>th</sup>
- **World Ocean Day** - happens on 8<sup>th</sup> of June.  
[www.worldoceansday.org](http://www.worldoceansday.org)
- **Plastic Free July** – a global movement to reduce plastic pollution.
- **International Bog Day** – will happen on 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Please visit [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie) for more information.
- **Heritage Week** – runs from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. Please visit [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)
- **International Coastal Cleanup Day** - held annually during the second or third Saturday of September.
- **Clean Up the World Campaign** - held annually during the third weekend of September.



### Contact us

Do you have a query about an environmental outreach programme or do you have a story that you would like to feature in the quarterly newsletter? Please contact Martha Casserly, Environmental Awareness Officer, or Niamh Moran, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer, by email [EnvAware@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:EnvAware@dlrcoco.ie) or call us on 01-2054700.

For all other general queries please contact Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Civic Hub on 01-2054700 or email [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie).

## Environmental Awareness Newsletter Summer Edition

### Tidy Districts Consultation

Further to the recent cancellation of the SuperValu TidyTowns competition and the current public health advice, the Council's annual Tidy Districts Competition will not be running this summer.



We wish to thank all volunteers who work tirelessly to improve their local environment and help their communities flourish. Residents' Associations, Tidy Districts and Tidy Towns volunteers show leadership, dedication and continue to be an inspiration in these unprecedented times.

While the competition itself will not proceed in 2020, the Council are keen to ensure that participating communities will not lose out on the support traditionally provided. We can arrange a non-competitive Tidy Districts consultation in late summer for interested groups, with a focus on Tidy Districts project and initiatives that could be carried out in 2021. This optional and supportive consultation can include a visit by an environmental consultant to your area in July or August, a personalised and informative report or a conversation over the phone.

If your group is interested in availing of the consultation, please email to [TidyDistricts@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:TidyDistricts@dlrcoco.ie) by 10 July 2020.

### Welcome to Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns!

The Council would like to welcome Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns who formed on January 30th and already count over 40 members, including 12 committee members leading up their 'Green Team', 'Heritage Team' and 'Clean-up Team'.



Their diligent effort, commitment and enthusiasm has already made a tangible difference to Dún Laoghaire town. The numbers of volunteers attending their weekly clean-ups continues to grow.

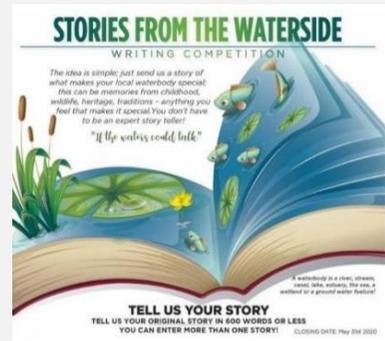
Dún Laoghaire Tidy Districts wish to thank their dedicated members and the many local volunteers who have joined in with their efforts. As noted by their Chairperson, 'the future looks bright – although the virus has forced us to postpone many activities, it hasn't dampened our enthusiasm or commitment....for a bright, clean and beautiful Dún Laoghaire'.

Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns committee 2020: Mary O'Keeffe (Chairperson), Frances Kelly (Secretary), Laurence Touvet Murphy (Treasurer), Fran O'Brien (Co-Treasurer), Brian Flynn (Clean-Up), Frank Heath (Clean-up), Betty Coffey (Clean-up), Ann Lynch (Green Team), Fiona Murray (Green and Heritage), Germaine D'Alton (Heritage), Joan Mallon (Green Team) and Ann Joyce (Green and Clean-up).

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### Do you have a story to share?

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland and Heritage Council is running a Storytelling Competition 'Stories from the Waterside, Scéalta Ó Thaobh An Uisce'.



The competition is open to all with €4,000 in prizes to be won. Entries are welcomed from across the Island of Ireland and entries may be submitted in either in English or Irish. Stories of 600 words or less and only original and previously unpublished stories. Closing Date is 31 May 2020.

To enter the competition please go to <http://watersandcommunities.ie/stories-from-the-waterside/>.

### Thirsty trees and dry weather

The Council kindly asks for your help to keep our trees hydrated over the dry summer months. Newly planted trees are fragile and may need extra care.

If you have public trees near your home and you'd like to help, please water the base of a tree with recycled water (already used within the home e.g. bathwater) or collected rainwater. Please be mindful to conserve the supply of fresh drinking water, particularly during dry weather.



## Environmental Awareness Newsletter Summer Edition

### Managing Waste Covid 19 Notices

Thank you to the individuals and communities across dlr for helping to protect our environment.

- Private household waste collectors are operating and providing a normal service. They have asked customers to present bins the evening before a scheduled collection and to disinfect handles.
- Ballyogan Recycling Park is currently operational during the COVID19 restrictions. Some delays and restrictions are in place due to social distancing protocols. For further information on the quieter times, materials accepted and charges please call Ballyogan directly on 01-2913600.
- The Council's bring bank sites remain open to the public for recycling of glass. The contractor and Council are both working hard to meet the increased demand. Please do not leave any litter. If the banks are full, please report this to the Council. Email [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie) or call on 01-2054700.



### Managing Waste Covid 19 Notices

If any member of the household is self isolating with a suspected case of Covid 19 or has tested positive for Covid 19.

- Put all your personal rubbish (waste) such as gloves, tissue, masks, wipes in a bin bag and tie it securely.
- Put this bin bag into a second bin bag and tie securely.
- Store the bag somewhere safe for 3 days and then put the bag into your wheelie bin for collection.
- Remember to disinfect bin handles.

For more information please visit [www.MyWaste.ie](http://www.MyWaste.ie) (link [here](#)).

## Environmental Awareness Newsletter Summer Edition

### Upcycling Challenge 2020

Are you thinking creatively at the moment, reusing old materials or do you plan to build your own furniture over the summer?

The Upcycle Challenge invites participants to use their imagination to create something new and useful out of old unwanted and discarded materials.

This annual competition from our Eastern Midland Regional Waste Management Office will open shortly and close for applications in October.

A total of eight winners were selected in the 2019 competition. For more details please visit [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie).

The Rediscovery Centre have a number of online video guides for upcycling projects on their website. Please click [here](#)

### Some of the previous winning projects



Lawrencetown Community Development Group restored an old phone box to create a new home for a defibrillator.



Eimear Greaney made a children's poncho from old broken umbrellas.



Dave Yeadon made a garden chair from an old wooden barrel.



Hannah McMahon's CLOTH Sanitary Towels made of leftover scraps won the public vote.



## Environmental Awareness Newsletter Summer Edition

### New Resources for the Garden

Gardening is an incredibly rewarding hobby and can have huge environmental benefits. Please find a selection of new resources available for free online below.

#### 1. Greener Gardening Guide

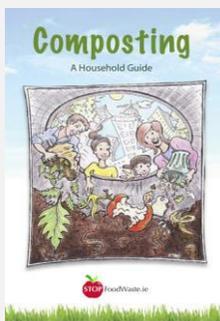
The greener gardening is a short guide to help gardeners to protect the environment and prevent hazardous waste in the home.

A copy of this new booklet can be downloaded from the mywaste.ie website [here](#)



#### 2. Composting Guide

We now have a guide to composting at home available on dlr website. Please click [here](#).

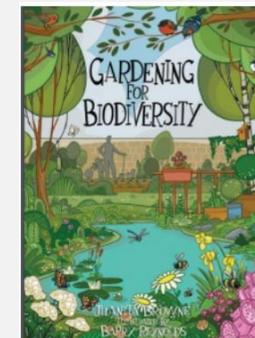


#### 3. Gardening for Biodiversity

The Gardening for Biodiversity booklet was created by Juanita Browne, Laois County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Council.

With clear instructions and step-by-step drawings, the guide offers the gardener lots of options to help our biodiversity.

A copy of this new booklet can be downloaded from the dlr website [here](#)



#### 4. Growing you own vegetables

Growing your own vegetables is a great way to reduce waste and carbon emissions. GIY, a not for profit social enterprise, have recently launched a free online course that will show you how to grow 12 delicious vegetables in 12 weeks.

For more information please visit [www.giy.ie](http://www.giy.ie) [here](#)

## Environmental Awareness Newsletter Summer Edition

### dlr Schools Awarded their Green Flag

Congratulations to the schools in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown who recently received a new green flag!

Environmental Awareness witnessed the inspirational environmental projects carried out by local schools during our assessment visits. The standards were very high this year, reflecting the dedication and effort invested by the students, teachers, staff, parents and wider community.



Green -Schools is an environmental education programme, designed to promote and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. Schools undertake long term projects on environmental issues such as waste and litter management, energy, water, sustainable transport and biodiversity.

Please note that Green Schools are still accepting application forms for new flags. Please contact [envaware@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:envaware@dlrcoco.ie).

If your renewal visit was not possible before Covid 19 measures, you can still apply for a new flag. Simply insert 'postponed' as the renewal visit assessment date on the application form.

### New Resources

#### Creative Activities to do at Home Guide

We have compiled 31 projects for you to try that re-use materials found in your home. This booklet has a range of ideas for all ages! You can find this guide [here](#)



#### Wildflower Guide

Use our wildflower guide to spot some wildflowers in your garden or local area. Wildflowers are an important part of our environment, providing food and shelter for pollinators. Please click [here](#)



#### Planting Trees in a School Garden-

Are you unsure of the best tree to plant in your school grounds? Use this simple poster to help you choose! Please click [here](#).



## Environmental Awareness Newsletter Summer Edition

### Identifying Bathing Areas

Local Authorities must identify official bathing areas in their county every year so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and usage.



The Council are inviting residents who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell us if they think the area should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming but not identified at the moment.

If you wish to propose your favourite beach or river as a new bathing water site or comment on an existing site please email [bathingwater@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:bathingwater@dlrcoco.ie)

Beaches.ie is the national bathing water information portal. Click [here](#) to find out information about your local bathing area or beach and water quality status.

### Young Environmentalist Awards 2020

Congratulations to all schools and youth groups within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown who took part in this years ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards!

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is an all-Ireland environmental awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment.



### ECO-UNESCO 30 Day Challenge

ECO-UNESCO has launched its #KeepItEco 30 day challenge. ECO-UNESCO will announce a new challenge everyday over the 30 days to encourage an environmentally friendly lifestyle. Information on the challenges can be found [here](#) or on their social media platforms.



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### Online Environmental Resources

#### **Green Schools**

Green Schools have launched the Green Schools Stay at Home Project, this is an online series of activities to do at home relating to all themes of their flags. Find out more on their website by clicking [here](#)

#### **ReCreate**

ReCreate have launched an at home video series of art and crafts to do at home using recyclable materials. Please follow this link [here](#)

#### **Clean Coasts**

Clean Coasts are hosting a mix of events online. Further details can be found [here](#).

#### **dlr Biodiversity Resources**

The biodiversity team have created and compiled a number of resources on biodiversity within dlr. Please follow this link for further information [here](#)

#### **Flossie and the Beach Cleaners:**

Local student Flossie and her voluntary group has made a number of online videos of activities to do at home, including an ice bowl and homemade candles. Please click [here](#)

#### **Dale Treadwell's Free Online Books:**

Learn about Harry the Hedgehog and Robby the Robin in Dale Treadwell's free online books. Please click on [the titles below](#) to view the online books.

[\*\*Harry the Hedgehog\*\*](#)

[\*\*Robby the Robin\*\*](#)

