

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

A Joined Up Framework for Biodiversity Action

www.pollinators.ie



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BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS A HUGE PROBLEM



Ireland has ~31,500 species living within 117 habitats

- Of those habitats assessed only **15%** are in a good state
- Of those species assessed **17%** are threatened with extinction from Ireland

*In Ireland, we have been using **pollinators** as a vehicle to sell the biodiversity message to a very wide audience*



- ✓ Pollinators are an element of biodiversity that people understand & relate to
- ✓ Can be communicated as a clean & simple message
- ✓ Changes can be easily monitored
- ✓ **Protecting pollinators has knock-on benefits for biodiversity generally**



If there is a problem what do you do?

1. Decide if it's important
2. Critically assess the problem and how serious it is
3. Identify the causes
4. Collectively agree a positive way to address the problem
5. Identify **evidence-based actions** to help
6. Communicate these properly
7. Develop a partnership driven approach where possible
8. Track progress – is it working?



A Joined Up Framework for Biodiversity Action

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN IMPACT TO DATE: 2015-

2015-2020: 81 actions
delivered



95% of Local Authorities
have become partners and are
taking actions on public land



Parks become pollinator
friendly through Green
Flag award

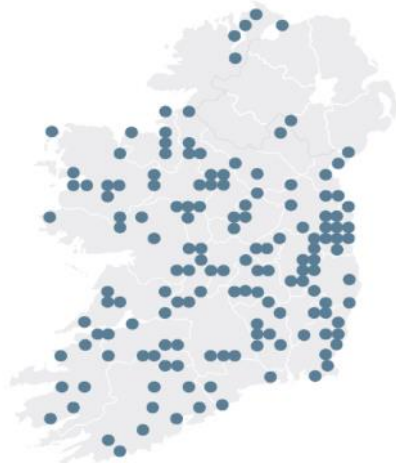


ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN IMPACT TO DATE: 2015-

200+ **local communities** have become pollinator friendly through a special pollinator award



Local Authority
Heritage Officer Programme



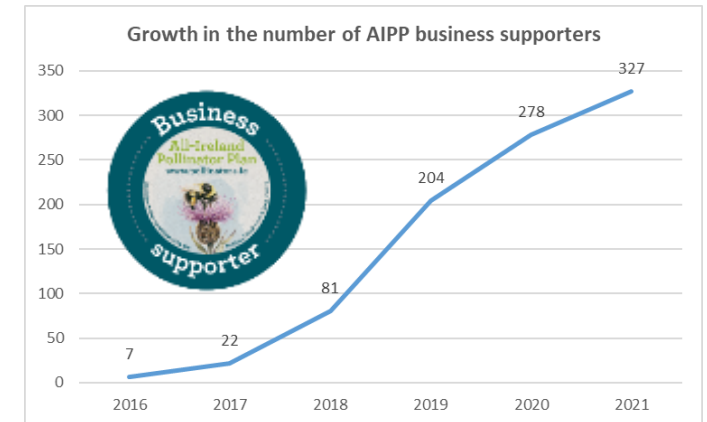
Research project (2019-2023) is creating an evidence-based pollinator-score for **farms**



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

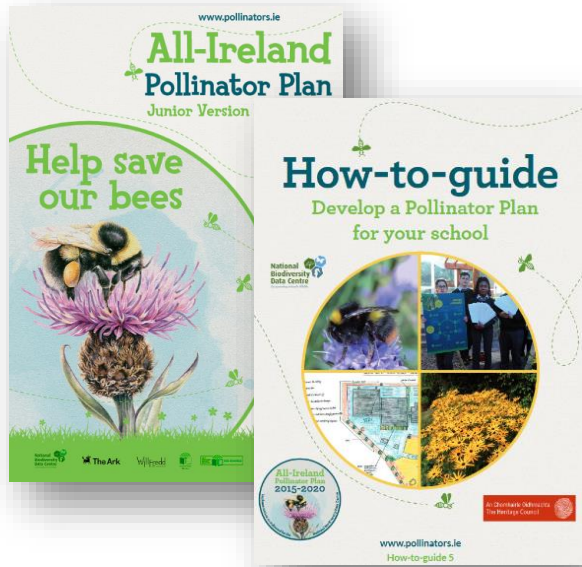


400+ business
supporters



ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN IMPACT TO DATE: 2015-

Schools have become
pollinator friendly

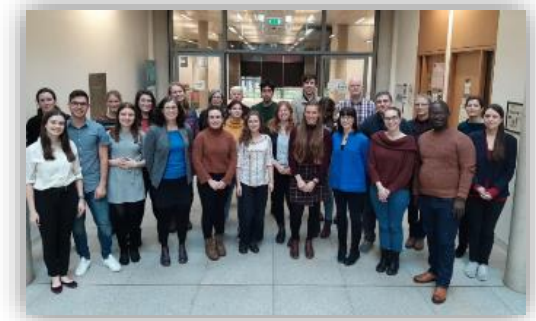


More people are
engaging with nature



Number of people
recording wild bees
increased by **300%**

Irish Pollinator
Research Network
established 2017





Five most important lessons we've learned

*Joined Up
Framework for
Biodiversity Action*



1. Collectively agree a realistic framework for action

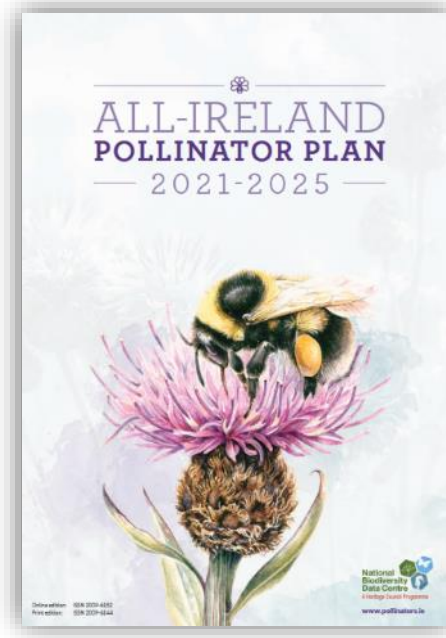
- ✓ All-Ireland
- ✓ **Cross-sectoral Steering Group**
- ✓ Development involved public consultation

First Pollinator Plan was developed from the ground up, the second phase is supported by government



Food, Shelter & Safety

✓ **81** actions



✓ **186** actions



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An initiative by
BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Three project officers



Kate Chandler



Ruth Wilson



Sarah Kelly

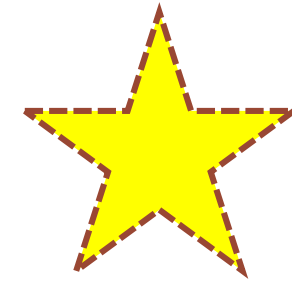
Frameworks need not be very formalised to have an impact – the Pollinator Plan is voluntary

Having an agreed framework for biodiversity action allows:

- ✓ Continual progress towards short and longer term goals
- ✓ Collective responsibility
- ✓ Efficiencies and knowledge sharing

There is huge potential for similar coordination around other areas

2. Solutions should be evidence-based and carefully tailored to the target audience



- ✓ Actions are all evidence-based
- ✓ Relevant sectors feed into development
- ✓ Communication is tailored each time

- ✓ Lots of **options**
- ✓ Positive - all actions are pragmatic & low cost
- ✓ **Free and easily accessible**

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3. Work together as much as possible

Trying to create a societal shift in how we manage the landscape



Use existing networks/partnerships to encourage implementation and roll out



Coming together to make a difference – no one is tackling the issue alone

The image features a central map of Dublin, Ireland, with several key areas highlighted in different colors and labeled with dashed boxes:

- Faith Communities** (white box)
- Campus** (green box, covering the Dublin Institute of Technology)
- Business** (blue box)
- Sports Clubs** (orange box)
- Gardens** (light green box)
- Local community groups** (purple box)
- Residents Associations** (light blue box)

Surrounding the map are several promotional materials for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020:

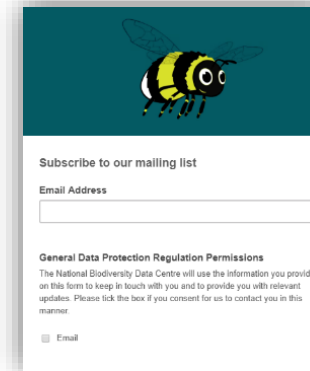
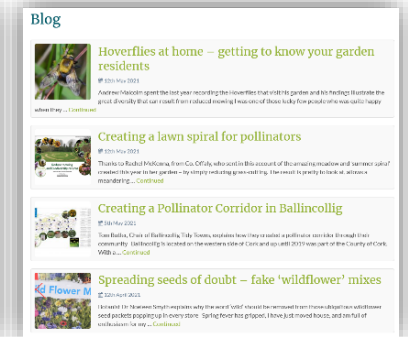
- Faith Communities: Actions to help pollinators** (top left)
- Gardens: actions to help pollinators** (middle left)
- Local Communities: actions to help pollinators** (bottom left)
- Businesses: actions to help pollinators** (top right)
- Pollinator-friendly management of Sports Clubs** (middle right)
- How-to-guide: Develop a Pollinator Plan for your school** (bottom right)
- Councils: actions to help pollinators** (far right)

Each booklet features the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 logo and images of pollinators and flowers.

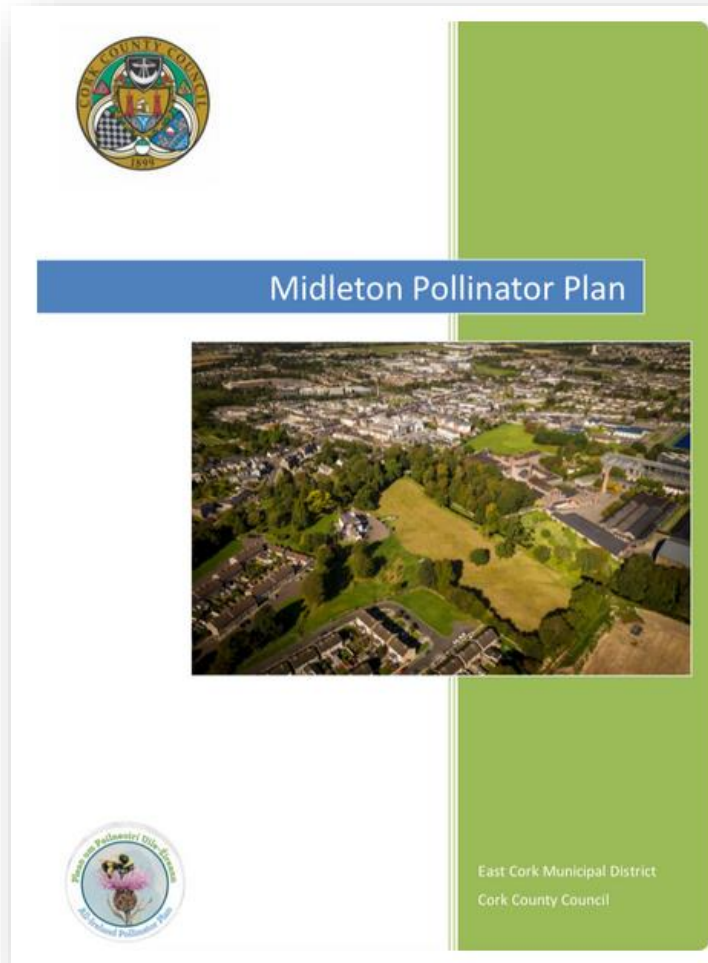
4. Continuously exchange knowledge, learn from each other, & give recognition to those helping

Continually improving and learning together – within sectors and across sectors

- ✓ Training events
- ✓ Supporter frameworks
- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Monthly newsletter
- ✓ Regular knowledge exchange blogs
- ✓ Publicly available annual reviews – main Plan, Councils, Businesses
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Work of the Irish Pollinator Research Network to underpin recommended actions



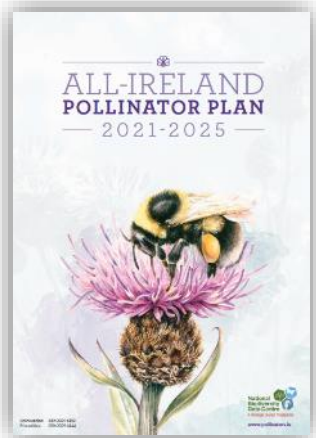
Cork CoCo have published a series of town pollinator plans



August 2022: Latest guide on protecting rare pollinator species was in collaboration with the local community in Skerries and Fingal CoCo. They have carried out excellent work to create ecological corridors for the Large Carder Bee in the town

5. Track progress – people want to know what they are doing is working

1. Track implementation of the actions in the Plan



Those who have responsibility for actions have to report their progress once a year

2. Track creation of pollinator habitat/resources



Publicly available online mapping system:
<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie>

3. Track changes in pollinators within the landscape



National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, launched 2022



Citizen Science initiatives: groups/individuals can track the impact of their own actions


It is a huge positive that the National Biodiversity Data Centre can directly link the Plan to data

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE GIS-BASED MAPPING SYSTEM ALLOWS ALL ACTIONS TO BE LOGGED

<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie>


1

Visit the Pollinator Plan website to find out the best actions to take




2

Sign up and we will send you an account activation email




3

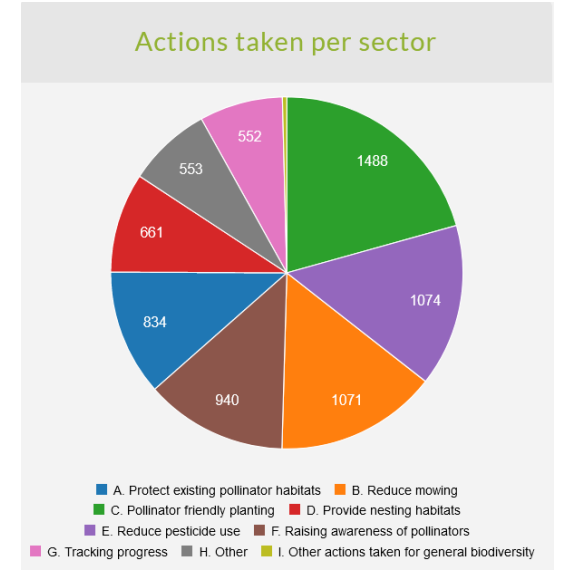
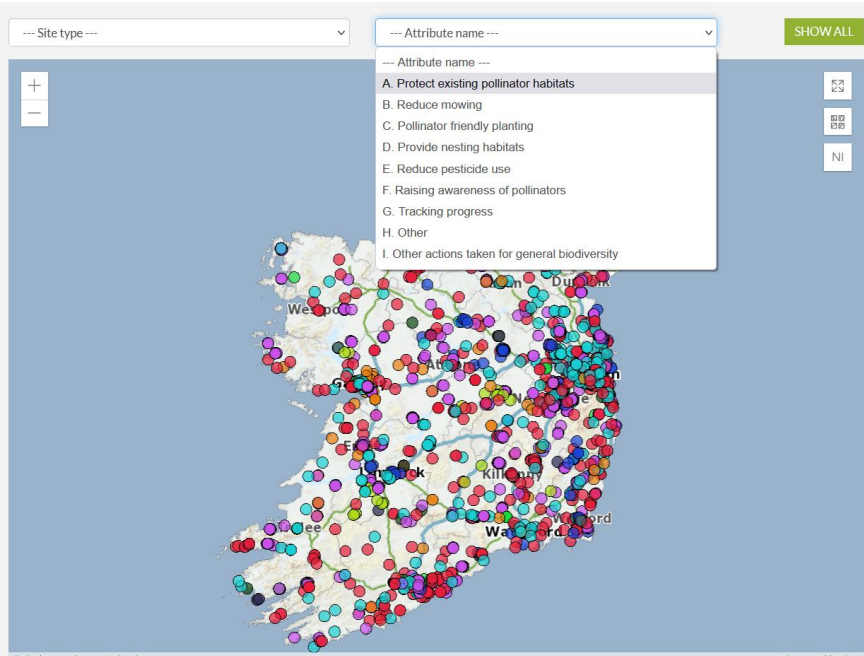
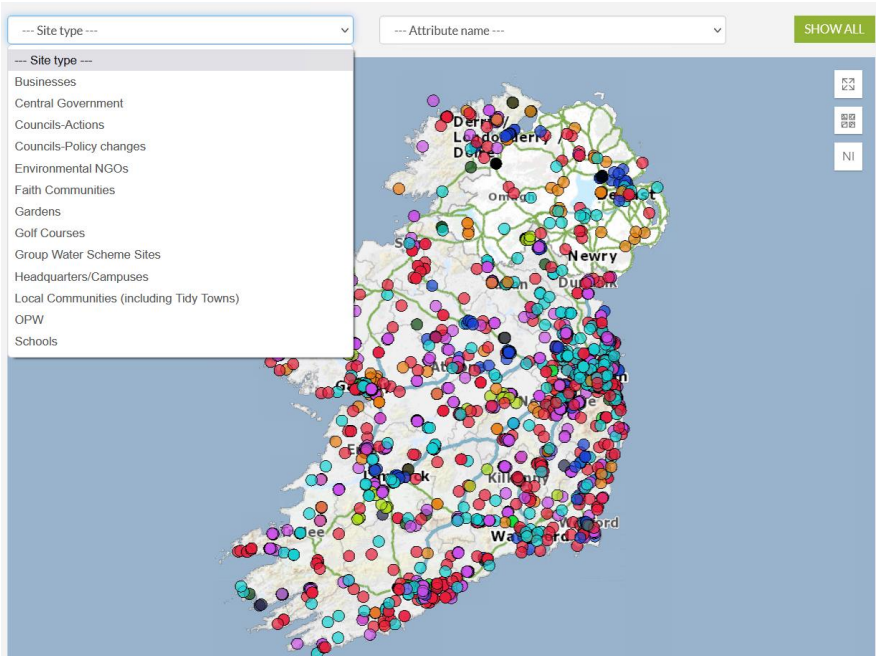
Zoom into our map and draw around your garden, school, park or business

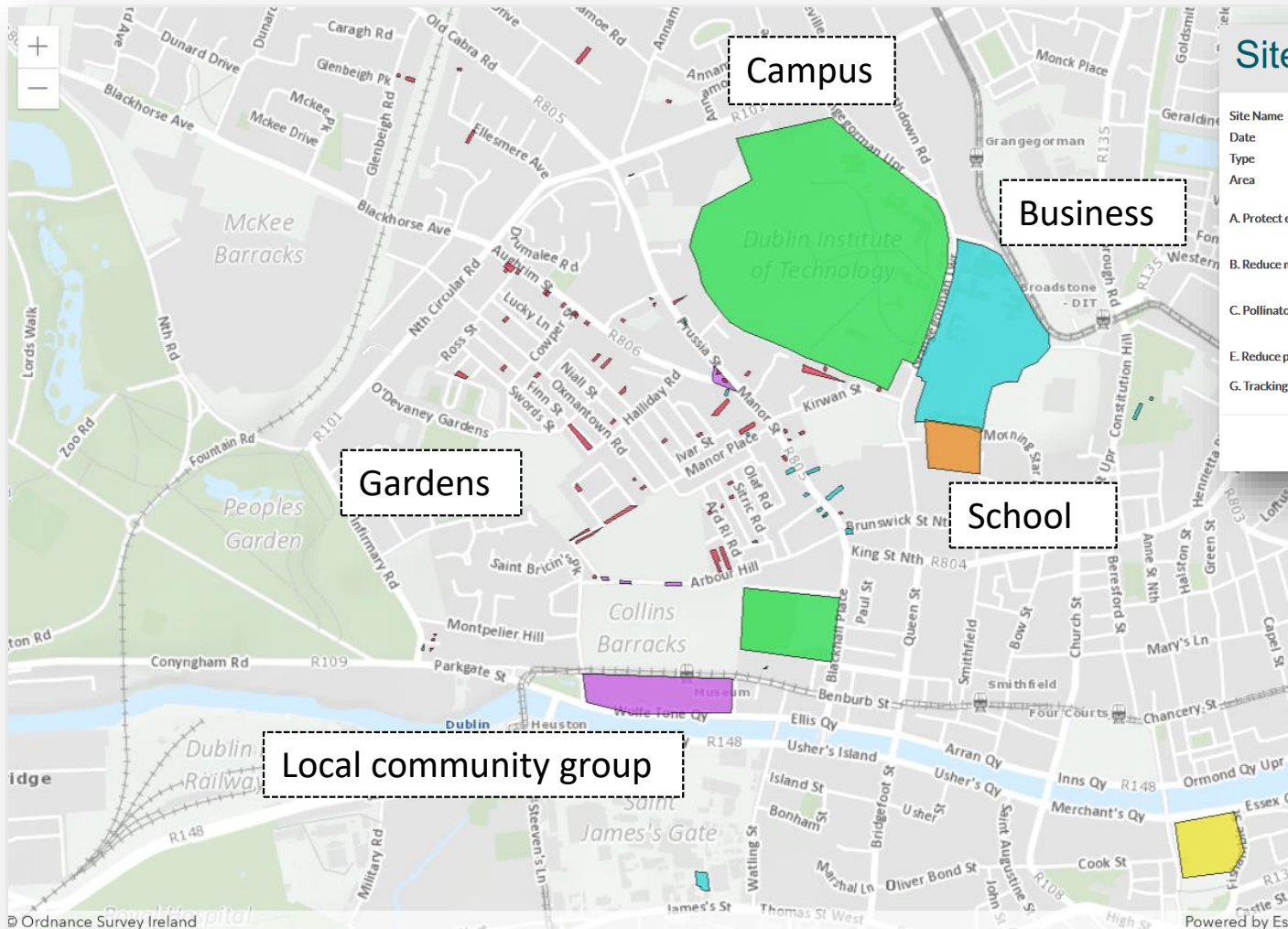


4

Describe what you've done at your site for pollinators







Site Details

Site Name	41 Haughton Terrace
Date	19/10/2019
Type	Gardens
Area	399 m2
A. Protect existing pollinator habitats	Area of existing earth banks or bare soil protected (m2) - 25 Length of existing dry stone walls protected (m) - 30 Other pollinator friendly habitats protected - Grass areas kept long
B. Reduce mowing	Area where Dandelions are allowed to bloom- first grass cut delayed till mid-April (m2) - 60 Area mown every 6 weeks to allow Clover to bloom (m2) - 60
C. Pollinator friendly planting	SPRING-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs - Broom, Rowan, Ivy SUMMER-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs - Echium, Cirsium, Digitalis AUTUMN-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs - Rudbeckia, Salvia, Verbena
E. Reduce pesticide use	Insecticide use eliminated Herbicide use eliminated
G. Tracking progress	Garden pollinator records submitted to data centre

CLOSE

**National
Biodiversity
Data Centre**



A Heritage Council Programme

**These types of IT systems can
efficiently coordinate
biodiversity actions across
sectors**

Overtime this will support the creation of ecological corridors and help us come together to better redesign landscapes for biodiversity



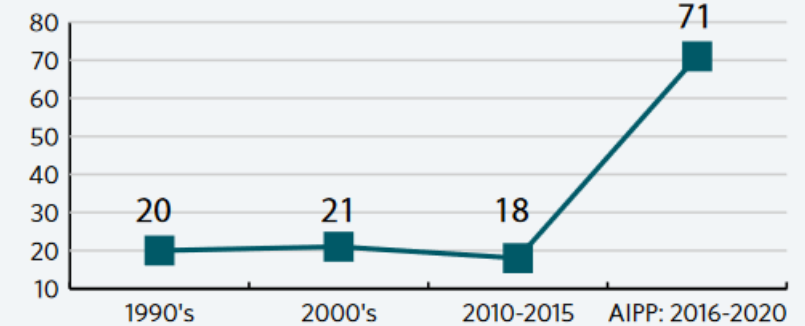
Need to fully normalise a better way of managing our whole landscape to permanently support our struggling biodiversity

Ultimate success = reversing the loss in our wild pollinators

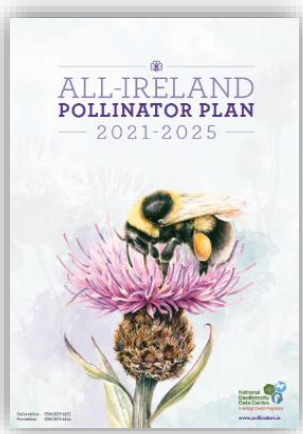
Is it working?



Average number of Bee Orchid records submitted to National Biodiversity Data Centre per year



2021: 142 records



What's next?



Expand to new sectors e.g., new housing developments, healthcare sites, residents' associations



Ensure everyone is taking the **right** actions to help

- Publish more technical guidelines around key actions e.g.,
- ✓ Top ten planting lists
 - ✓ Meadow management

Better share knowledge
within Local Authorities and
local communities



Skerries Wild Bee Festival (Pic: Fingal County Council)

Helping pollinators also reduces Carbon emissions - Derry City & Strabane District Council

Derry City & Strabane District Council developed the first Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032 in Northern Ireland. Biodiversity is one of the four key themes within this plan, with a key action to create a Pollinator Plan for council-owned green spaces, aligned to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. In 2020, the Council invested in new equipment to change the grass management regime at key green spaces. This campaign aims to create species-rich grassland on 4% of our estate (28ha). This involves transforming around 50 football pitches' worth of amenity grass to create grasslands rich in native wildflowers. We installed signage at these key green spaces, highlighting the biodiversity benefits of leaving the grass long at these sites, to provide a source of food and habitat for the declining bee population, to help deliver the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We cut and lift long when the wildflower their seeds for next



and reduce the fertility to facilitate sustainable species-rich meadows in coming years.

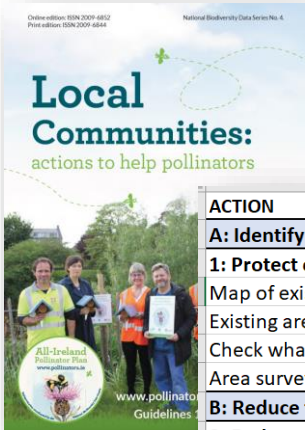
This plan enhances ecological connectivity, contributes towards biodiversity net gain and increases the existing natural capital value of these sites by £6,500/annum. This change prevented 1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions through reduced grass cutting.

To find out more, see www.derrystrabane.com/gi

- Dr Christine Doherty, Lead Officer for Green
Derry City & Strabane District Council

Better explain the wider
benefits of pollinator actions
– particularly to climate and
health & wellbeing

Do more around accountability and giving recognition



ACTION	SCORE
A: Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators	15
1: Protect existing sources of food and shelter	
Map of existing areas that are already good	2
Existing areas maintained	5
Check what pollinators are known from your local area	3
Area surveyed by an ecologist and biologist	5
B: Reduce the frequency of mowing	20
2: Reduce mowing	
At least one properly managed lawn (can be 1+ locations)	7
3: Create a short-flowering meadow	
At least one quarter of grassy areas managed as short-flowering meadows	10
4: Let the Dandelions Bloom	
At least half of grassy areas where Dandelions are allowed to bloom in spring	3
C: Pollinator-friendly planting	20
Native planting:	
5: Maintain or plant a native flowering hedgerow	

Scoring system to assess how pollinator friendly (out of 100)

Self-assessment tool – will help communities see how important one action is compared to another, help prioritise actions, annually track progress & have a threshold to aim for

95% of Local Authorities have become partners and are taking actions on public land



Mandatory mapping & annual reporting of actions



Lots of small actions, taken together, can begin to solve big problems

The interaction between Local Authorities and Local Communities under the Pollinator Plan framework has already shown what can be achieved

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Data Centre



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THANK YOU



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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



National Parks &
Wildlife Service



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An initiative by

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