



The IEN is an umbrella group of nationally active ENGOS in Ireland. It supports these groups in their work through the distribution of core funding as well as providing help through training and advice.





Environmental Pillar

Working for a sustainable future

The Environmental Pillar is comprised of national environmental NGOs, who work together to create and promote policies that advance sustainability.

Public Participation Networks

This is a body through which the Council communicates with the community



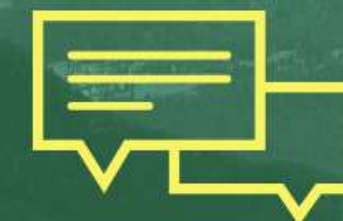
INFLUENCE
LOCAL POLICY

ACCESS FUNDING



COMMUNITY
WELLBEING

INFORMATION



COMMUNICATE



Local Environmental Networks

Independent voluntary groups
that work to:

Connect - Communicate - Collaborate

Galway Environmental Network:
galwayenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

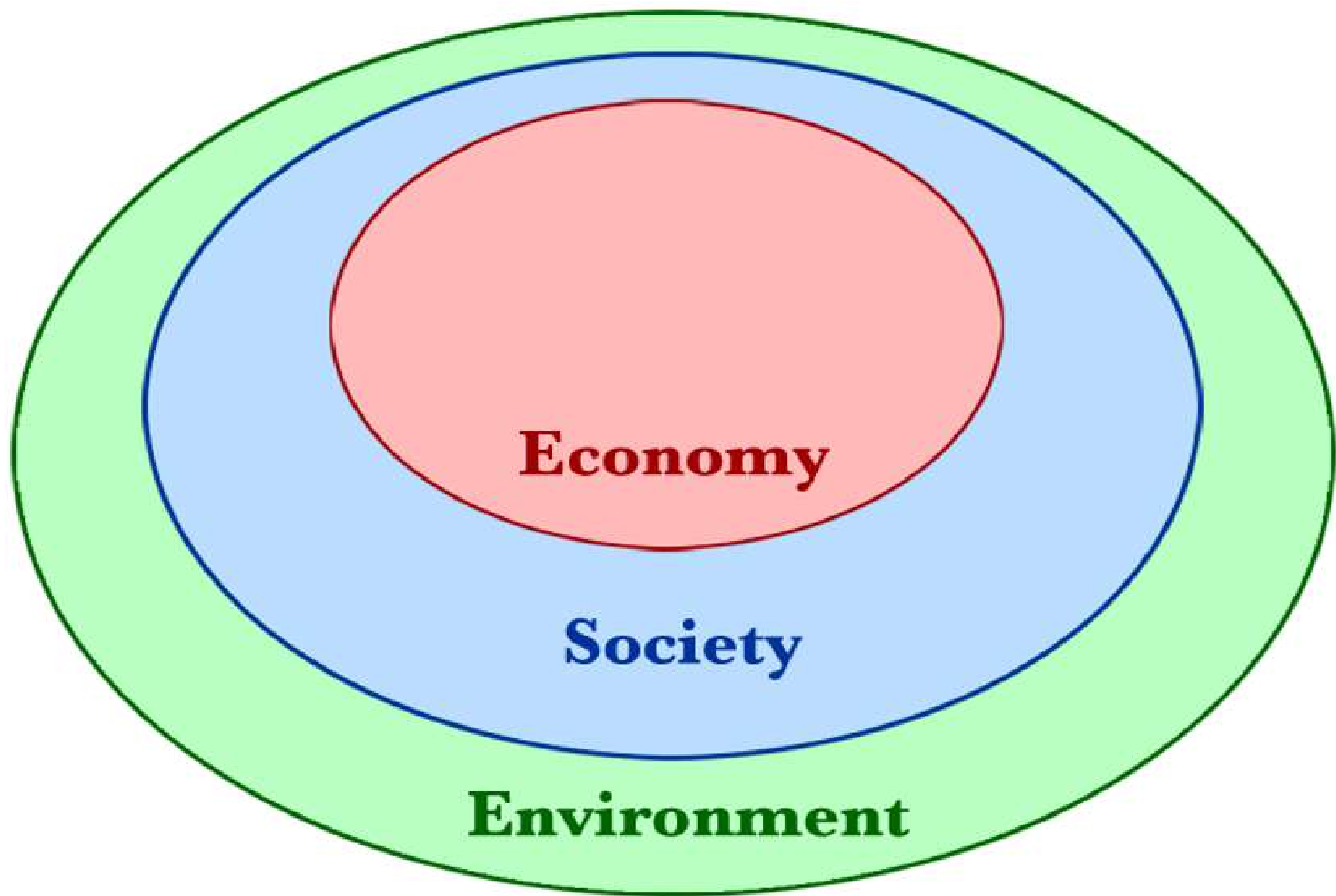
Clare Environmental Network:
clareenvn@gmail.com

This evening:

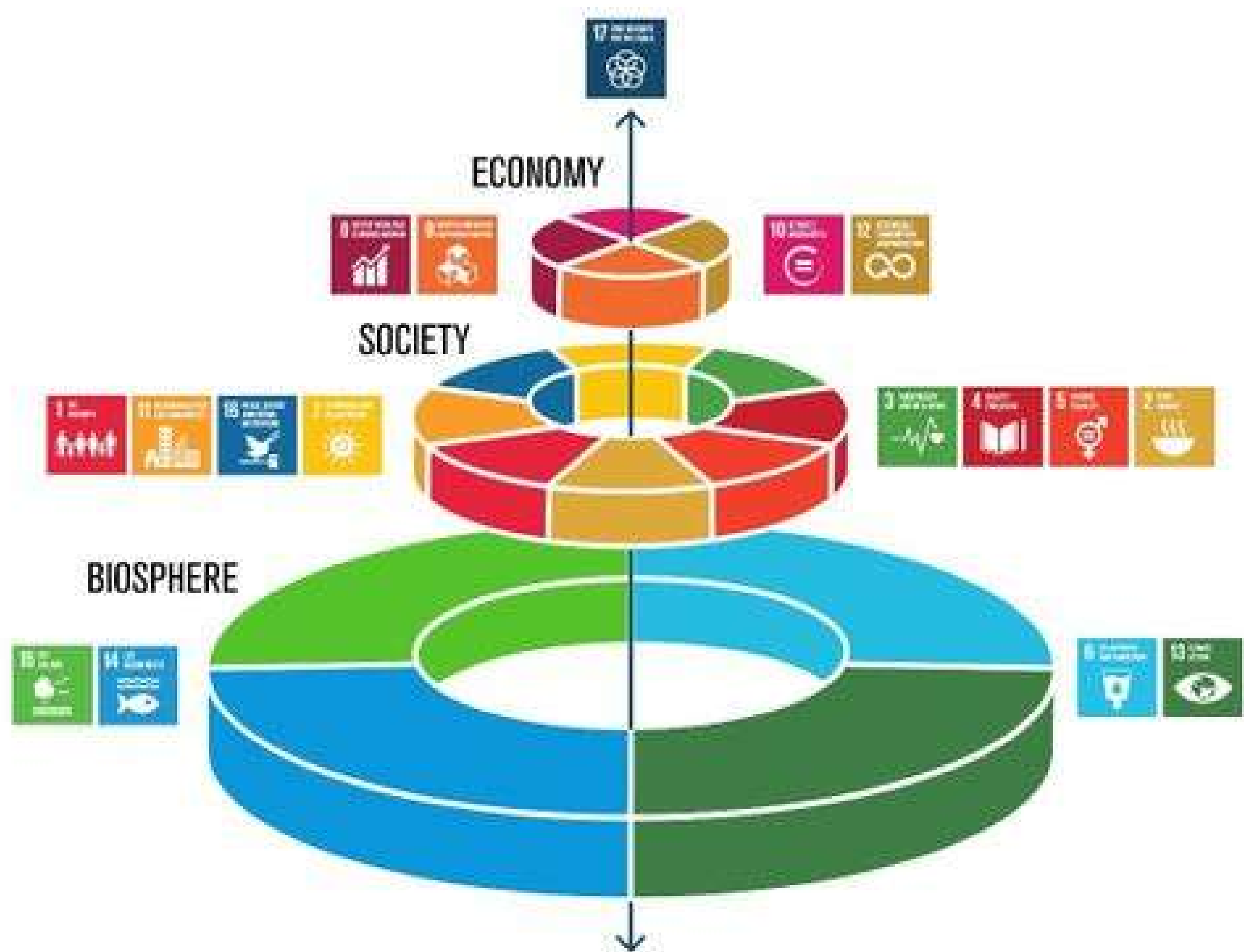
- Introduce sustainability through the Global Goals
- How to join the PPN as an environmental group
- What is an environmental group? - working on climate goals in your community

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is the process of living within the limits of available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow the living systems in which humans are embedded to thrive in perpetuity.









WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY

A sustainable community is one that meets the needs of everyone in the community while protecting the environment it relies on, and limiting damage to the environment.

JOINING THE PPN ENVIRONMENTAL COLLEGE

Links:

[Criteria document](#)

[Community Groups Eligibility Form](#)



Make a change towards

Best Practice



1

Having considered the environmental impact of all of your activities, your organisation is actively working towards being more environmentally friendly.



2

Being aware of any ecologically sensitive areas within your geographical area, and what impacts your work has on these areas.

(Eg. Bogs, wetlands, rivers and waterways, native woodland, meadows, hedgerows, coastlines, copses, grassland, open areas, protected species etc.)

Freshwater marshland, home to frogs among others. Photo via The Bride Project.



Derelict buildings for bats and barn owls (photo via The Bride Project)



Bridge with Daubenton's bat roost by G. Stanton. Via batconservationireland.org



House martins nesting under eaves



'Bee scrape' for hibernating bees. Courtesy of The Bride Project (www.thebrideproject.ie)



Merlin Woods, Galway. Photo bt Car Stanley via Facebook page Friends of Merlin Woods

Connectivity

Next step: Connecting habitats.

Hedgerows act as roads for wildlife to move between areas. Ponds and wetlands are stepping stones for aquatic life to travel and meet others of their kind. Flower rich areas are rest stops for pollinators. Holes in fences allow hedgehogs access to your garden.

"The community of Bruff, Co. Limerick, are planning to create ecological corridors through the town to join up green spaces using pollinator-friendly planting."

[See more on this project on pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



A vertical image on the left side of the slide shows a green laser line projected from a machine onto a field of crops. The machine is partially visible on the left, and the laser line is a bright green circle on the ground.

3

Only use weed and plant control methods that are accepted under national Organic Standards.

Why

We have 99 bee species in Ireland. One third of these are threatened with extinction from Ireland.

100 crops provide

90% of the
world's food
71 are pollinated by bees



ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL





NO WEED CONTROL

Requires a change in our perspective of aesthetics.



PREVENTION

Such as more regular cleaning programme of footpaths and gullies to prevent a build-up of growing substrates.



MANUAL WEEDING

ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL



STRIMMING



ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL

NOVEL TECHNIQUES

Thermal weeding (flame or hot air), foam, steam, and hot water weeding, and vinegar have been trialed in different countries with various degrees of success.



Information from presentation to Dublin City Council by Biodiversity Officer 2017.

For full presentation email catherine@ien.ie.

[Dublin City Council](#)
[Herbicide Use Policy](#)
available here

A close-up photograph of a robin's head and beak. The bird is holding a small, white, fluffy seed head in its beak. The background is a soft-focus view of autumn leaves in shades of yellow and orange.

4

Only be involved in cutting, trimming, grubbing, burning or otherwise destroying hedgerows and ditches within the open cutting season (Sept 1st until February 28th) as provided for in law, including in urban and suburban areas.



FOOD FOR POLLINATORS

Hedgerows provide early food for pollinators. Willow (and dandelions) are the earliest flower to bloom and essential for queen bees.



NESTING SITES

Birds nesting in hedgerows and upland areas at risk, including red listed greenginches, yellowhammers and curlew.



HOMES

Hedgerows and upland scrub provide food, shelter, habitat, and wildlife corridors.

More info on hedgelaying: <https://hedgelaying.ie/>



Photo:
<https://www.irisht Examiner.com/farming>



5

Be planting majority native and pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs. (Use the resources provided in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.)



How to create a wildflower meadow

Planting an area

1. Reduced and well timed cutting
2. Planting locally sourced wildflower seeds

(Eg of sellers: Irish Seed Savers/Brown Envelope Seeds/Fruit Hill Farm/Future Forests)

Help and inspiration:
Pollinator Plan guidance documents:
<https://pollinators.ie/>



How to create a wildflower meadow

Rewilding an area

Simply let it grow, or:

1. Cut grass after the first dandelions have gone to seed
2. Cut grass again in September and remove the clippings
3. Repeat for three years or so

Help and inspiration:
We are the ARK
(www.wearetheark.org)



6

Whilst engaged in your groups activities, protecting all native animals, including birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles from persecution.

A dark bird of prey, possibly a buzzard, is perched on a grassy hill. The bird is facing right, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer. It has dark plumage and a sharp, hooked beak. The background is a soft-focus green field.

7

Confirm that your group does not persecute, trap, destroy, shoot or otherwise harm animals, with exceptions for invasive alien species.

INVASIVE SPECIES

a species of plant or animal that outcompetes other species causing damage to an ecosystem

Possible solutions:

- Don't introduce invasive species
- Removal days eg 'Rhododendron Bash'.
Technique depends on species targeted
- 'Native Nature Award' for garden centres
- Conservation Grazing



Himalayan Balsam



Native bluebells
(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) [top] vs
Spanish bluebells
[bottom]



Rhododendron eclipsing native fauna.
Photos via superfolk.com



Thank you!

catherine@ien.ie