

How Local Authorities can address the Biodiversity Emergency



Wednesday 21st &
Thursday 22nd September

[#BiodiversityEmergency](#) [#Biodiversity](#) [#LimerickCouncil](#) [#BioDataCentre](#) [#GlobalGoals](#)





In 2019, Dáil Eireann declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency acknowledging that dramatic decline in biological diversity in Ireland. With the newly emerging 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan, local authorities will have a more important role in addressing Ireland's biodiversity crisis. The objective of this important conference is to highlight many of the biodiversity issues that are relevant to local authorities work, and to identify actions and solutions that will better allow LAs to meet this newly expanded role. One of the expected outputs from the conference will be a high-level action plan to assist local authorities in addressing biodiversity loss within their area. Given the scope and content of this conference it should be of interest to local community groups, conservation NGOs and colleagues from other public sector bodies. In particular the conference will:

- Identify some of the challenges and opportunities for local authorities to address the biodiversity emergency
- Highlight best national and international practice examples where this is already happening
- Provide an opportunity for the audience to identify and prioritise key actions to help biodiversity conservation &
- Provide a series of key recommendations for the future priorities for local authority actions on biodiversity

This event is open to local authorities and other government agencies, non-government organisations, Tidy Towns groups, and other interested members of the public. Booking is required.



BOOK HERE

EVENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 9.00 – 17.00

BIODIVERSITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Welcoming Address

Local Biodiversity - Setting the Scene - Dr Liam Lysaght, National Biodiversity Data Centre

Local authorities role in the emerging National Biodiversity Action Plan - Andy Bleasdale National Parks and Wildlife Service

BREAK

City of Utrecht: How to Add Nature in a Densifying City - Gitty Korsuize, City of Utrecht Urban Ecologist

SuDS and Nature Based Solutions for Biodiversity - Fran Igoe, Local Authorities Water Programme

How Blue/Green Infrastructure can Incorporate Biodiversity -Stephanie Crewe, Land Use Consultancy

Round Table Discussion

LUNCH

BIODIVERSITY & COMMUNITY

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025- A Joined Up Framework for Biodiversity Action - Una Fitzpatrick, National Biodiversity Data Centre

How Heritage officers are Delivering for Biodiversity -Amanda Pedlow, Heritage Officer, Offaly County Council.

The Role of Community Networks to Deliver Biodiversity Action -Proinsias Ó Tuama. East Cork Biodiversity Network

BREAK

Bird Conservation in Urban Environments - Ricky Whelan Urban Bird Conservation Officer, BirdWatch Ireland

Work of Community Foundation Ireland in Funding a Programme of Local Biodiversity Actions - Denise Charlton , CEO Community Foundation Ireland

Corporate Social Responsibility and the Community - Maighread Cremin, Musgraves Group

Round Table Discussion

Wrap Up of Day 1

CONFERENCE DINNER

A wonderful chance to network with conference speakers and fellow participants while enjoying a delightful dining experience featuring local produce and all the dedication, passion and enthusiasm for food that Limerick Strand Hotel is known for.



THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 9.00 – 17.00

BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE ACTION

Welcoming & Introduction

The Biodiversity & Climate Emergency – setting the scene. Bernadette Guest Heritage Officer, Waterford County Council

Coordinating Local Government to deliver Climate Action – Kevin Motherway, Climate Action Regional Offices, (CARO) Atlantic Seaboard South

Natural Capital Benefits of Actions for Pollinators - Christine Doherty, Derry City & Strabane District Council

Questions from the floor

BREAK

Monaghan Wetlands Action Plan & Ramsar Rapid Assessment of Ecosystem Services (RAWES) Method. An easy way to score wetlands and to catalyse restoration actions - Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council

Community Engagement for Water and Biodiversity - Liz Gabbett - Maigne Rivers Trust & Donna Weiner - Mary Immaculate College/University of Limerick

Growing Woodland Habitats in School and Communities – Rachel Geary, An Choill Bheag, Environmental Education Unit An Taisce

Round Table Discussion

LUNCH

BIODIVERSITY & MANAGEMENT

A Framework for Action on Invasive Species by Local Authorities – Colette O'Flynn, National Biodiversity Data Centre

Opportunities for Biodiversity Management through Regional Assemblies – Owen Douglas, Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly

Challenges and Opportunities for Managing Public Spaces for Biodiversity - Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer, Fingal County Council

Incorporating Biodiversity Through Guidelines for New Developments - Susan Vickers, Cluid Housing

BREAK

Round Table Discussion

Round up & Outputs

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE AND CLOSE