GREENER TOGETHER

Welcome to the debut edition of the Climate Action Newsletter, brought to you by Laois County Council! We're excited to embark on this monthly adventure with you. Each issue will be brimming with updates on our latest climate projects, sneak peeks at upcoming events, and practical tips for your own climate action journey.
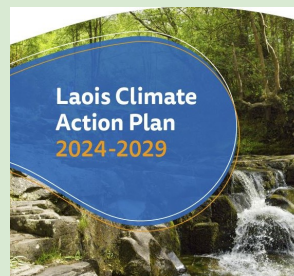

We've got some exciting updates to share with you this month! From innovation to trash trees, there's a lot happening, and we can't wait to fill you in. In this newsletter:

- Laois Climate Action Plan
- Funding, Grants, Awards
- Sustainable Innovation Course
- Midlands Park Volunteering
- Portlaoise Low Carbon Town

- Trash Tree
- Picture Our Future
- Biodiversity Identification Workshops
- Top Tip

Laois Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Back in January, we kicked off our exciting Climate Action Plan! This initiative is all about boosting our climate resilience, ramping up energy efficiency, and slashing greenhouse gas emissions. Portlaoise has been designated the Decarbonising Zone for Laois. Within the plan there are 62 actions for Portlaoise under 4 themes:

- Communications & Engagement Strategy
- Greening of Portlaoise
- Active Travel & Sustainable Mobility
- Decarbonisation Pathway and Circular Economy

Laois Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Find out more ›

Funding, Grants, Awards

Tidy Towns

All 21 Tidy Town Groups received a total grant of €37,215

Community Climate Action Fund

A portfolio of 27 applications were sent for approval.

Green School Awards

11 Laois schools were awarded their Green School flags this year.

Sustainable Innovation Course
for Sustainable Enterprises and Communities

Learning and Collaboration Drive Climate Action in Portlaoise

Forty participants from 32 organisations and businesses are celebrating the successful completion of a pioneering course designed to equip communities with the skills needed to tackle climate change challenges. The Ireland's Knowledge Centre for Carbon, Climate, and Community Action (IKC3), in partnership with Laois County Council, conducted a pilot course titled "Systems Innovation for Sustainable Enterprises and Communities" (SISEC), focusing on the Portlaoise Low Carbon Town Project.

Delivered over three months, the course empowered local participants as challenge owners, providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to address sustainability challenges within their communities. Participants engaged actively and collaboratively, applying systems thinking to tackle local climate change issues. The group has now formed the Portlaoise Climate Alliance, which will meet biannually to deliberate on the future of Portlaoise as a Low Carbon Town.

Find out more ›

Midlands Park Volunteering Day

The staff from Midlands Park Hotel spent a day in the Linear Park in Portlaoise, removing Himalayan balsam as it is an invasive species.
It shades out native plants. It increases soil erosion as it die backs late. It produces a lot of nectar, which results in native species loosing preference with the bees.

DID YOU KNOW?

Portlaoise Low Carbon Town

Portlaoise has been selected to be a *demonstration town* for the implementation of sustainable and community driven urban renewal. Laois County Council are investing €2.7 million over the next three years to

increase:

- the resilience of infrastructural assets
- increasing Active Travel, with more cycleways
- building towards a 'Park and Stride' policy.

Find out more ›

Trash Tree - Waste Characterisation

Litter collected by Portlaoise Tidy Town was painstakingly sorted in categories.

The goal? To get to the bottom of littering habits in the town centre. By pinpointing the main sources of litter, we can craft targeted anti-litter campaigns. The data will help Laois County Council decide on the type of recycling bins around town.

The art installation 'Tree of Trash' was created by artist Heather Roche. This multi-medium piece, inspired by the tree of life, uses litter collected by Portlaoise Tidy Towns as its foliage.
Stay tuned for more updates and join us in making Portlaoise a cleaner, greener place!

Find out more ›

Picture Our Future

Feeling overwhelmed, confused about Climate Change? Visit Portlaoise library to see the exhibition – Picture our Future. This is an interactive exhibition, merging art and climate action communication. It will be on display for the month of June in the library. You will learn about the SISEC and Portlaoise Low Carbon Project also. See graphic displays for climate challenges and solutions. Oisín and Aisling hosted a series of workshops for the exhibition during the month of June.

FUTURE EVENTS

Portlaoise Tidy Towns are running a series of biodiversity identification workshops to help increase records of wildlife and wild plants in the town.

We aim to do this with the help of local residents (i.e. Citizen Scientists). We are running a series of workshops to help upskill interested persons on how to get involved - this will be led by ecologist Dr Mary O'Connor. No prior experience or knowledge is required to take part, just your interest in helping make Portlaoise a better place for biodiversity.

Please register for as many of the workshops as you would like to and are available to attend. Spaces are limited so please make sure to register as soon as possible. All workshops are free.

- Butterfly Identification Workshop: Sat June 29nd (10am-1pm)
- Bumblebee Identification Workshop: Sat July 6th (10am-1pm)

Register here ›

TOP TIP
Cycle to Work Scheme

Do you know the Cycle to Work Scheme covers cargo and ecargo bikes, pedelecs, ebikes and all push bikes and associated safety equipment.

Try the difference today and be leader in Active Travel!

Find out more ›

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