



**W**elcome to the August edition of the Greener Together Newsletter!  
We're thrilled to bring you the latest BOLT e-bikes, our upcoming Energy Awareness Week in early September, and the exciting progress we're making towards active travel in Portlaoise.



Check out what's in this month's newsletter!

- BOLT ebike launch
- Sustainability in AIB
- Pride of Place
- Smarter Travel for Business
- Tidy Towns
- Energy Awareness Week
- An Introduction to Circular Economy Workshop
- NZEB Fundamental Course
- Smarter Cities
- Mountrath Road Cycleways
- Top Tip for Wasps

## RECENT EVENTS



Last month, we had a fantastic launch for the BOLT e-bikes in Portlaoise. With the sun shining down on County Hall, we rolled out 50 e-bikes across 40 locations, each with a range of 60km and a top speed of 25km/hr. Our elected members and Chief Executive Simon Walton gave them a spin and loved them! We'll be adding more locations as we see demand grow. If you haven't already; download the app and take one for a ride today!

[Download the app >](#)

## Sustainability in AIB, Portlaoise



Every Friday, the AIB team comes together to share their latest green insights and eco-friendly tips. This sustainable culture has led to initiatives like carpooling, walking to work, and boosting recycling efforts. AIB now regularly donates to food banks and charity shops and has switched all lights to sensor-activated LEDs. The Portlaoise branch even has a dedicated Sustainability Champion on the lookout for new efficiency opportunities. Their ongoing mission is to keep promoting sustainability and efficiency to customers and clients.

## Abbeyleix Bog Project Impresses Judges at Pride of Place 2024

The Abbeyleix Bog Project made Laois proud at the 2024 Pride of Place awards on Thursday, July 25th! Nominated in the special Climate Action and Biodiversity category, the project turned heads as the community came together at the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.

The winners of the IPB All Island Pride of Place Competition 2024 will be announced on Saturday, 2nd November, at the Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony at The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.

[Watch the Video here >](#)



## Smarter Travel for Businesses

Last month, Transport for Ireland (TFI) hosted an exciting workshop at Laois Chambers, introducing businesses to its Smarter Travel Workplace programme.

TFI Smarter Travel helps companies encourage sustainable commuting habits among employees, offering resources and guidance to create custom travel plans that cut down on single-occupancy vehicle trips and environmental impact.

[Find out more >](#)



## Tidy Towns Biodiversity Garden Tour

The Laois Federation of Tidy Towns and the Green Team from Midlands Park Hotel enjoyed an informative tour with

garden designer Dee Sewell, who shared some insights about the garden's design. The Biodiversity Demonstration Garden is part of the Portlaoise Low Carbon Town (PLCT) initiative and the "Town in a Garden" concept, both of which aim to increase biodiversity in urban areas, boosting quality of life and championing sustainable living.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK**  
FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES

SEPT 2ND - 6TH  
Come and Visit Our Rig  
at Laois Shopping Centre  
(upper car park)

Providing guidance and technical assistance  
to build or renovate homes/businesses with  
energy efficient technologies

seai SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY  
loetb  
climateaction@laoiscoco.ie  
MOUNT LUCAS

## Energy Awareness Week September 2nd - 6th

Get ready for an exciting week-long event at Laois Shopping Centre! We're bringing in an NZEB and Retrofit mobile training rig, which will be parked in the upper car park. Our team of experts will be there to offer free advice and answer all your questions about home energy upgrades, solar panels, funding options, and grants.

Solar Panels

EV Cars

BER Rating

Retrofit

SEAI Grants

New Builds

NZEB

# Energy Awareness Week SEPT 2ND - 6TH



Come and Visit Our Retrofitting Rig  
at Laois Shopping Centre (upper car  
park)

*Monday*

**11am - 6pm**

**At the Rig:**

All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB  
Meet Nick an EV Car Owner

Meet Belinda from People's First Credit Union  
for Green Loan advice

*Tuesday*

**10am - 6pm**

**At the Rig:**

All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB  
Meet Nick an EV Car Owner

Meet Grace from PTSB for Green Loan advice

Evening Launch  
at the Old Fort

*Wednesday*

**10am - 6pm**

**At the Rig:**

All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB  
Meet Paul, the Solar Panel Expert from AEI

Meet Mary & Emily from Bank of Ireland for Green  
Loan advice

At The CUBE: Circular Economy Course

*Thursday*

**10am - 6pm**

**At the Rig:**

All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB  
Meet Nigel, the Solar Panel Expert from AEI

Meet Karen from EBS for Green Loan advice

At The CUBE: NZEB Fundamental Course

*Friday*

**10am - 4pm**

**At the Rig:**

All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB

Meet Sierra Scully and the AIB team for Green  
Loan advice



[climateaction@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:climateaction@laoiscoco.ie)

We will have experts from the LOETB and SEAI at the rig for the week. The **LOETB** will be on site each day to offer free advice and support for upgrades and retrofits in both homes and businesses.

**SEAI** will offer advice for grants and opportunities for homes, businesses and communities.

Monday and Tuesday, we will have an **EV car owner** to answer any EV queries.

**AIB, PTSB, Bank of Ireland and People's First Credit Union** will be at the rig during the week to advise on green loan options.

Wednesday, September 4th. Join us at The CUBE for an exciting **Introduction to Circular Economy** hosted by LOETB!

Wednesday and Thursday **AEI solar panel experts** will be on the rig to answer any questions..

Also the **NZEB Fundamental Course** is running in The CUBE on Thursday.

ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 2ND - 6TH



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

## An Introduction to Circular Economy

10am - 12am  
Wednesday 4th of September  
The CUBE, Tower Hill, Portlaoise  
Free of charge

Spaces are limited: Book on Eventbrite or scan the QR code



climateaction@laoiscoco.ie

## An Introduction to Circular Economy *September 4th*

LOETB are hosting An Introduction to Circular Economy in The CUBE on the 4th September. Spaces are limited, book early.

[Book Now >](#)

ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK

SEPTMBER 2ND - 6TH



Would you like to learn more about Nearly Zero Energy Buildings? (NZEB)

LOETB and Laois County Council present:  
City & Guild approved

## NZEB Fundamental Course

9am - 4pm  
Thursday 5th of September at  
The CUBE, Tower Hill, Portlaoise  
Free of charge

Spaces are limited: Book on Eventbrite

[Book Now >](#)



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## Smart Cities



The Climate Action Section and Caroline Hofman from The CUBE recently took a trip to explore the ins and outs of their Digital Twin and Smart City initiative. Limerick City and County Council are keen to uncover deep retrofit options for the Georgian city centre complex. One of the coolest features? An interactive 3D model that streams real-time data from energy monitors in buildings all around Limerick City Centre.





## **New Mountrath Road Cycleway**

Guess what? The Mountrath Road upgrades are finally done, and we're thrilled to share all the exciting details with you. These improvements are part of a grand plan to enhance the cycleways network across Ireland.

First up, we've reimagined the road space to include dedicated cycling lanes on both sides. The old footpaths? They're history! In their place, you'll now find sleek, 2-meter wide concrete walkways. And that's not all—we've added a new kerb to create a raised 2-meter wide cycle track, featuring Laois's very first red tarmac. How cool is that?

We've also made the junctions at two estate entrances safer by tightening them up and installing a raised pedestrian crossing. All these fantastic upgrades span a 300-meter stretch between Rockview and Rockdale estates.

Keep an eye out for more updates, especially about the upcoming Borris Road cycleways upgrade!

[Find out more ›](#)

## TOP TIP

### *Meet our unexpected allies: The Wasps*

August is here, and so are the wasps! Wasps are great pollinators and predators of common nuisance plant and fruit flies.

Their eating behaviour changes in August, as the colony have come to the end of their sugary substance in the colony.

To keep wasps at bay, try to cover food and drinks, and use natural repellents like peppermint oil around your outdoor space.



[Find out more ›](#)



**Laois County Council**

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

**Laois County Council**

(057) 86 64000

[greenertogether@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:greenertogether@laoiscoco.ie)



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