



Welcome to the September newsletter! Lots of exciting events have happened this month. Fingleton and White had an amazing volunteer day at Abbeyleix bog, tackling the invasive *Rhododendron ponticum*. Our Energy Awareness Week saw a fantastic turnout, and our interactive displays at the ploughing championships raised lots of awareness about climate action in the home. Your feedback and interaction is important to us, so don't be shy—drop us a line and let us know what you think about our latest updates. Can't wait to hear from you!



In this weeks newsletter:

- Energy Awareness Week and launch
- Fingleton and White volunteer day
- Climate Action Works Engagement Fund
- Ploughing Championships
- Green-schools travel theme
- BOLT bike update
- Pop-up energy saving and retrofit clinics
- Business for biodiversity webinar
- Eco Top Tip

RECENT EVENTS

Energy Awareness Week



Energy Awareness Week was a hit, especially with our exciting launch on Tuesday evening! Aisling O'Rourke did a fantastic job hosting, and we had insightful talks from the SEAI, Mount Lucas, and Claire Irwin. Throughout the week, we offered valuable one-on-one advice to the public, and the LOETB's courses were a big success.

[Find out more >](#)

Fingleton & White Volunteer Day



Fingleton and White did an incredible volunteer day in Abbeyleix bog, tackling the poisonous *Rhododendron ponticum*. Pauline and Helena organized a staff volunteer day by teaming up with Laois Volunteers and the Abbeyleix bog project. The volunteers learned about the bog, cleared *Rhododendron ponticum*, and had an absolutely amazing day! *Rhododendron ponticum* is toxic to animals and it can cause 'Mad honey' disease, poisoning those who consume it.

Funding, Grants, Awards

Climate Action Works Engagement Fund

The Climate Action Works Engagement Fund is now open for applications.

Groups can apply for up to €10,000.

This grant round is to support groups or organisations working to bring people together and share information in communities.

If you are an existing or newly formed organisation, this funding is to support communications and engagement activities that enable you to connect with a wider audience in your community.

Deadline to apply is 4pm, Friday 4th October 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact info@foundation.ie.

[Criteria is here >](#)

[Learn More >](#)

National Ploughing Championships



The Climate Action team had a blast at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska! Our stand was buzzing with interactive displays on proper recycling and food waste allocation. We also showcased home energy-saving kits, which you can borrow from your local Laois library.

DID YOU KNOW?



Green-Schools Travel Theme

Ten mainstream schools in Portlaoise are gearing up to embrace the Travel Flag theme for Green Schools this coming school year! They'll be diving into lessons on active travel, including cycling, walking, scooting, and carpooling. Stay tuned to see some amazing initiatives that will benefit both the community and the schools. You won't want to miss it!

[Find out more >](#)



BOLT eBike Update

We've received fantastic feedback from BOLT about the ebike usage in Portlaoise! Each bike is averaging 2.1 trips per day, with rides lasting around 12.9 minutes.

Thanks to the successful uptake, Portlaoise will soon get at least 20 more ebikes. BOLT keeps a close eye on the data, ensuring each bike is well-maintained and batteries are swapped out when they hit 20%. Since July 30th, we've proudly logged 3,514 trips, covering a total of 8,799 kilometers. Keep pedaling, Portlaoise!

FUTURE EVENTS

Pop-up Energy Retrofit Clinic with the SEAI

A pop-up Energy Retrofit Clinic with the SEAI will be taking place in The CUBE, Portlaoise on Wednesday, 16th October and Thursday 17th October 2024. These in-person clinics will provide business owners with the opportunity to avail of a free one-to-one meeting with a dedicated SEAI Energy Consultant to discuss relevant energy saving and building retrofitting options, and how you can green your business and save energy costs.

Information on the relevant grants available will also be provided and how these can be applied for.

Booking is essential:
Book online: www.cubecentre.ie
E-mail: caroline@cubecentre.ie
OR Telephone: 085 7856204

DATES :
• WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2024
• THURSDAY, 17TH OCTOBER 2024

The CUBE
18 Church Street
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32 TP89

 **SEAI**
SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AUTHORITY
OF IRELAND

 **The CUBE**
LOW CARBON CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Pop-up energy saving and retrofit clinics in The CUBE.

**14th to 20th October
2024**

These in-person clinics will provide business owners with the opportunity to avail of a free one-to-one meeting with a dedicated SEAI Energy Consultant.

[Book here >](#)

Sustainable Enterprise Webinar Series

The Business Case for Biodiversity

Wed, 9th Oct 2024
[Register Now](#)



The business case for biodiversity - Webinar 9th October 2024, 1-2pm

How businesses impact on nature and how businesses are dependent on nature will be discussed as well as how businesses can improve their positive impacts and reduce their negative impacts on nature.

[Book here >](#)

TOP TIP

Leave fallen leaves on the ground

Fallen leaves provide natural insulation for plants and habitats for insects, like pollinators and other beneficial species, throughout the winter. By letting leaves decompose naturally, you enrich the soil, reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, and help support local wildlife—all while minimizing waste and carbon emissions from leaf blowers or collection services!



[Find out more >](#)



Laois County Council

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