



The days are getting shorter but the climate action continues! We are delighted to showcase some amazing talent and effort in some national and local tidy town wins in Laois this month, along with a summary from our Climate Action Festival. We also hosted a Local Authority Climate Action Forum. We caught up with Vanessa in Midlands Park to discuss their recent success. With COP29 recently closed it is a good time to reflect and take some mantra onboard: what am I able to do; what can I do; what have I done'..



### **In this month's newsletter we have:**

- Local Authority Climate Forum Conference
- Laois Climate Action Festival 2024
- Business Showcase: Midlands Park Hotel
- Abbeyleix Bog Project Wins Pride of Place with All-Island Climate Award
- 'Town in a Garden' the journey continues!
- National Tidy Town Awards
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## Local Authority Climate Forum Conference

### Agents of Change

On November 5th, Climate Action Teams from the 31 Local Authorities attended the *Agents For Change* forum to share initiatives and developments that they could bring back to their own counties, and to take part in a skill and resilience development session.

[Find out more >](#)

## RECENT EVENTS



## Laois Climate Action Festival 2024

The Climate Action Festival presented and showcased an array of events for all ages. The events covered an array of climate action themes including; food waste reduction, upcycling, circular economy, education



for schools, biodiversity and gardening for sustainability. Successful events ranged from practical workshops like Applefest Abbeyleix which combined food, local produce, and family-friendly entertainment, to more educational sessions like Gardening for Biodiversity and waste discussions.

Many of the actions within the Local Authority Climate Action Plan were addressed; including community engagement, waste management, circular economy, biodiversity and nature conservation, sustainable travel; sustainable energy and food waste reduction.

[See our Youtube short >](#)



## Showcase: Midlands Park Hotel

In the first of our Climate Initiative Series, we speak with Vanessa Langford to discuss the drive towards sustainability in the Midlands Park Hotel. Vanessa highlights some of the innovations within their Green Champions team. The team have a reduced energy costs, reduced food waste, reduced grey waste and created an initiative towards sustainable housekeeping. We are proud to have the Midlands Park Hotel in Laois. The hotel won a Eco Label Award and are Green Hospitality Certified 2023-2026.

[Listen to Vanessa speak about the climate initiatives >](#)

[Read More >](#)

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## Abbeyleix Bog Project Wins Pride of Place with All-Island Climate Award



The Pride of Place judging panel visited Abbeyleix Bog last July. They were deeply impressed by the quality of the presentation, the immersive bog tour, and the extraordinary spirit of volunteerism evident throughout Abbeyleix. The project's core objectives: restoration, education, and recreation - are aligned with climate and sustainability goals. The judges particularly commended the significant restoration achievement, with active raised bog increasing from 1% to 13.5%, a milestone that has transformative implications for carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

[Read the Press Release >](#)

[Abbeyleix Bog >](#)

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## 'Town in a Garden' the journey continues!



Exciting news! Over the next 10 days, three roundabouts are getting a stunning makeover, thanks to LBAF (Local Biodiversity Action Fund) funding.

- Birchgrove (Harpurs Lane),
- Stradbally/Block Road (Beladd)
- Dublin Road (Kilminchy)





These roundabouts will feature landscaping with grasses, perennials, and vibrant bulbs, offering year-round beauty and boosting local wildlife habitats. This enhancement supports pollinators and makes our town greener and more sustainable.

[Find out more >](#)

## National Tidy Town Awards

The Trojan work of the many volunteers from Tidy Towns groups around Laois was recognised at this year SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Twenty-four groups from the county had entered the competition, with each maintaining their positions or gaining extra marks on previous results.

[Read more about the wins of Abbeyleix, Durrow, Portlaoise and Killeshin >](#)



## Laois Federation Tidy Town Awards

This annual event is organised by Laois County Council. Community tidy town groups display a shared commitment to sustainability, heritage, and environmental care. The awards were judged over the summer by six dedicated members of the Laois Federation of Tidy Towns Committee.

The awards highlight outstanding projects in ten categories, reflecting Laois' vibrant and engaged community spirit.



Read more about the wins of Ballacolla, Clonaslee, Durrow, Mountmellick, Portlaoise, Stradbally, Borris-in-Ossory, Rosenallis, Killeen, Abbeyleix >



## Triogue Greenway Update

We are continuing with great strides on improving the active travel in Portlaoise. The pathways in the People's Park and Linear Park have been widened as part of the Triogue way works.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The Business for Biodiversity Ireland website supports Irish

businesses in integrating biodiversity into their strategies by offering guidance, resources, and a collaborative platform for sharing best practices. The organization aims to enhance corporate understanding of biodiversity risks and opportunities, helping companies make positive environmental impacts and align with sustainable business models.



[Visit the website >](#)

## Upcoming Events



## European Climate Pact Lunch Talk Webinar

**1:00pm Thursday,  
12th December 2024**

The aim of this webinar is to raise awareness, share knowledge, foster collaboration, highlight the importance and principles of the circular economy such as regenerating natural systems and ultimately, drive action. It will feature an interactive session where participants can share their experiences, and a Q&A session.

[Find out more and Register >](#)





## Climate Action Leadership Training *13 - 20 March 2025*

Public Affairs Ireland are hosting Climate Action Leadership Training. The training is aligned with the Irish government's Climate Action Plan.

All senior management personnel (PO level or equivalent and above) are mandated to complete Climate Action Leadership Training under the Climate Action Plan.

[Find out more and Register](#)



### TOP TIP

#### ***Gets your 2025 applications lined up!***

January and February is the start of the the grants and fund applications. Get talking to your relevant council section to ensure you know what is required and what paperwork is needed.



[Find out more >](#)





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