

Welcome!

Fáilte!

SKERRIES ECO NIGHT TUE 22/11/22 SKERRIES

Skerries Community
Association



Helping to make a great town
even better.



Skerries Tidy Towns

@SkerriesTidyTowns · Community



Skerries Community Centre
Ionad Pobail na Sceirí

sustainable
skerries



Organised by **Sustainable Skerries**,
with thanks to the **Skerries Community Association**
and **Skerries Tidy Towns** for their financial contributions to the event.
And to the participants of the Skerries Eco Town Course
for their inputs and help tonight!

sustainableskerries.com/eco

The Skerries Eco Town Course was financed with help from the
Department of Rural and Community Development / EAFRD / LEADER.



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaith
Our Rural
Future



"The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas."

**Funded by the Department of Rural
& Community Development**

*This project is supported by EU Recovery Instrument Funding under the Rural Development
Programme 2014-2022.*

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the [EAFRD](#)

*– The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas –
and the Irish [Department of Rural and Community Development](#).*

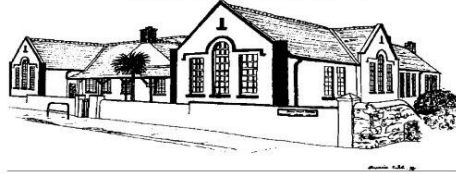
Quick overview of the evening

1. Welcome from the Skerries Community Association
2. The history and purpose of the first Skerries Eco Night
3. Six spotlights of what is already happening
 - a. Tidy Towns and Sustainability
 - b. The Carder Bee Action Plan
 - c. Food, Circular Economy, Climate
 - d. Active Travel
 - e. Greening the Community Centre
 - f. An Energy Master Plan for Skerries
4. Some takeaways from the Skerries Eco Town Course
5. BREAK!
6. Your turn 1/2: Looking at one topic (by table colour)
7. Your turn 2/2: So what can / should we do?!?

Welcome from the Skerries Community Association



Skerries Community Association



Helping to make a great town even better.



Jane Landy, Chair, the Skerries Community Association

The history and purpose of this first Skerries Eco Night 1/2



- Growing awareness of biodiversity and climate crises...
- What can we do in Skerries?



- Arranged the Skerries Eco Town Course
- Invited interested groups & individuals:
 - the SCA Board of Directors itself
 - other SCA committees
 - the general public
- Won the educational arm of Cloughjordan Eco Village to deliver the course
- Obtained funding through LEADER Fingal



The history and purpose of the first Skerries Eco Night 2/2

- Six weekly sessions later...
- One weekend visit to Cloughjordan ...
- Lots of interesting talks and discussions...
- What next???
- this, the first Skerries Eco Night = the first tangible result!



(Some participants also organised the Community Garden Harvest Festival)



The Road to Sustainability: Skerries Tidy Towns

Anne Laird, Skerries Tidy Towns

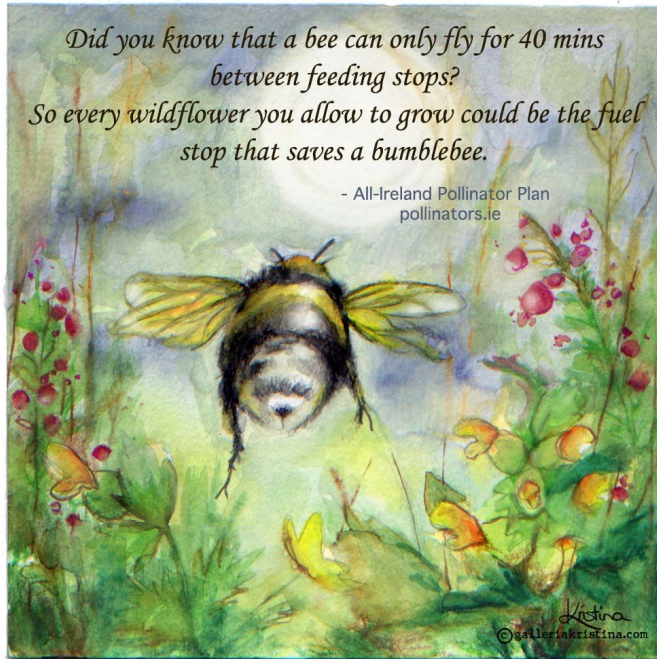
- Recognise what nature has to offer
- Let the grass grow a little longer: **“No Mow May”**
- Let the dandelions bloom
- Set aside grass verges for natural wildflowers
- Engaging with Birdwatch Ireland:
- Bring home your litter from the beach
- Keep dogs on a lead near the brook lest they disturb migrating birds
- Keep Cup Campaign already joined by every coffee shop in Skerries
- Cafés, pubs, restaurants agreed to fill water bottles with tap water = less single use plastic bottles!



Saving the Carder Bee

Charlie Heasman, Sustainable Skerries

sustainableskerries.com/large-carder-bee-action-plan/



Food, Circular Economy, Climate, Biodiversity 1/2

Helen Scullion, Sustainable Skerries



- We love food that is good for us and the planet!
Sustainable Skerries Food Festival 2021 (maybe 2023?)
- We love trees and edible landscapes!
Skerries Open Orchard (38 trees planted early 2022, more planned!)
- We love the circular economy!
Car Boot Sale May 2022 (and hopefully 2023) 
- We love repairing instead of replacing!
Repair Cafés 2019, online 2021 (and hopefully 2023) 
- **WE LOVE RAISING AWARENESS FOR CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION!**
First Fridays for Future, 7 pm.
Fri 2 Dec 2022: Christmas Jumper & PJ Swap, Little Theatre!

Food, Circular Economy, Climate 2/2

- sustainableskerries.com
Check out our blog posts!
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp group
- Sustainable Skerries Email Newsletter
- Skerries Eco Town Course
- Join us! sustskerries@gmail.com

**SKERRIES
FIRST
FRIDAYS
FOR
FUTURE**

**EVERY FIRST FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH
AT 7 PM**

**SUSTAINABLESKERRIES.COM
#FRIDAYSFORFUTURE
#FIRSTFRIDAYSFORFUTURE**



**Christmas PJs and
Jumper Swap!
Bring yours
and find new ones.
Fri 2 Dec, 7-8 pm.
Meet in front
of the Little Theatre**



Interested in **climate** and **biodiversity** action?
The **circular economy**? **Waste** reduction?
Sustainable and healthy **food** production?

**JOIN US!
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER!**

sustainable
skerries.com



A committee of the Skerries
Community Association



Active Travel



Skerries Cycling Initiative, Michael McKenna

- Cycling conditions suitable for all ages and abilities
- Safer routes to schools, shops, sports, station and towns on foot, scooters, bikes, buggies
- Engaging with Active Travel and Greenway projects
 - mail us at: cycling@skerriesca.com
FB skerriescyclinginitiative

Active Travel: What we don't want!

- Obstacle course at Sherlock Park/Town Park
- Balbriggan Road: Why not join the two sections of footpath on the right-hand side?

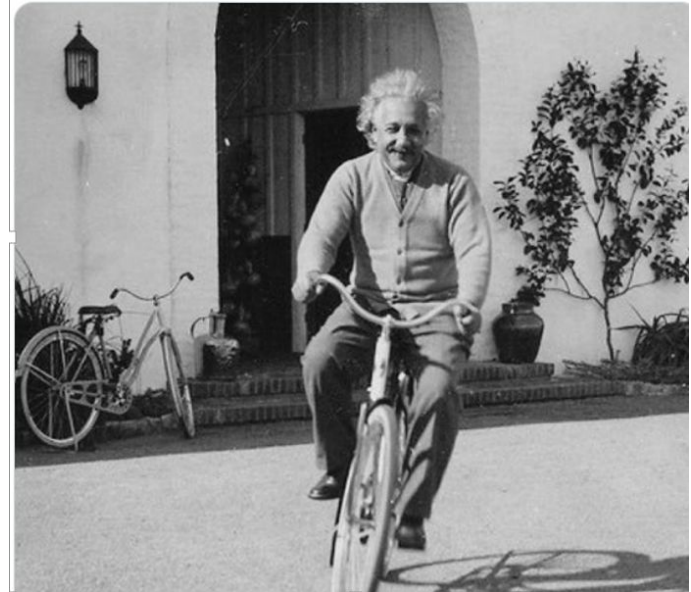


Active Travel

Modes of active travel en route to COP 26
2021, Our Promise Mother Earth



Cycling is a very energy efficient means of transport –and you don't have to be an Einstein to know that!





Greening Skerries Community Centre 1/2

Sharon Guinane, manager, Skerries Community Centre

Skerries Community Centre
Ionad Pobail na Sceirí



- recycling bins in the office, kitchen etc
- replaced most lighting with LED
 - emergency lighting being done now
 - main hall and studios to be done before Christmas
- replaced many immersion / electric heater switches with key switches
- applied for a grant for solar energy in the community centre
- applied for a grant for a heat pump
- 2023: research collecting rainwater for toilets and showers
- 2023: putting in a bee garden / wild flower garden around the centre



Sustainable Energy Master Plan 1/2

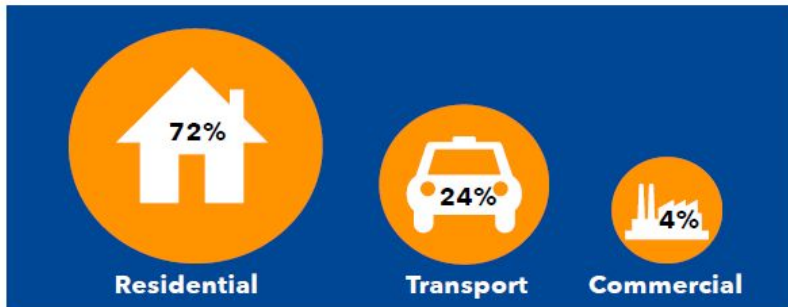
(Michael Mullan-Jensen) Today: John Fitzgerald, Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (S-SECI)



Community energy use in Units of Energy

1 unit of energy = 1 kilowatt hour

SECTOR	ELECTRICITY	FOSSIL FUEL	RENEWABLE	TOTAL
Residential	41.4 million	59.8 million	0.4 million	101.6 million
Non-Residential	1.3 million	3.9 million		5.2 million
Transport	0.05 million	32.6 million		32.65 million
Total Energy	42.75 million	96.2 million	0.4 million	139 million



The challenge for Skerries will be to reduce fossil fuel emissions from Residential and Transport energy use:

Annual Residential energy emissions	26,000 tonnes of CO2
Annual Transport emissions	8,000 tonnes of CO2

Sustainable Energy Master Plan 2/2



To meet these challenges, some key areas to work with:

- Encourage retrofitting of homes for better heating efficiency and move away from fossil fuel use
- Encourage local electricity saving measures for households
- Encourage Active Travel and move away from car dependency for small trips and commutes
- Change to electrified transport options and local micro-mobility options
- Look to establishing a Community-Led Project for Renewable Energy Generation that will qualify for the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS)

Some takeaways from the Skerries Eco Town Course

- About Cloughjordan Eco Village
- About Climate
- About Biodiversity
- About Food
- About Energy
- About Community Resilience and Engaging with People



55 Low Energy Homes

100 Adults & 10 Businesses

A Learning Destination

Cloughjordan's Eco Neighbourhood
County Tipperary, Ireland

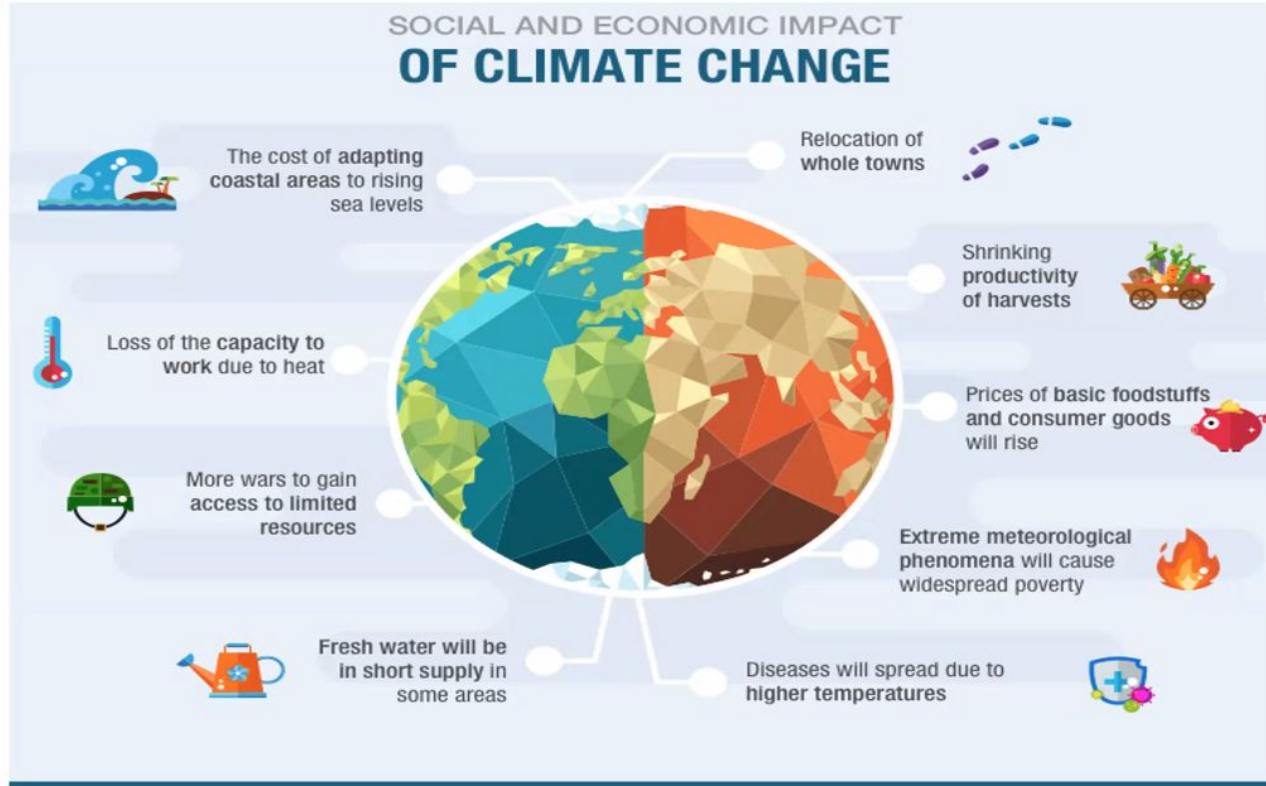
What we took from our visit to Cloughjordan Ecovillage

- some good examples for Skerries - and some warnings!
- part of Cloughjordan, not separate
- showing what is possible everywhere
 - eco-friendly buildings
 - high energy rating
 - designing for pedestrians above cars
 - one third for people, one third for food, one third for nature
 - edible landscapes
 - community-supported agriculture
 - makerspace / fablab: 3d printer, laser cutter etc
 - workspace for eco enterprises
- not “greener than thou” but offering options for more sustainable living
- not perfect, but trying to live more sustainably

Climate change takeaways from the course

- Can we limit it to 1.5 degrees?
- Need for mitigation = as little warming as possible
- Need for adaptation = dealing with the consequences
- This is not about feeling guilty as an individual.
 - *The “carbon footprint” was invented by an advertising agency for BP...*
 - *... to keep the heat off corporations!*
- Of course how we each act still makes a difference.
- We are all consumers, passengers, voters, citizens...
- We need to work together.
- We need system change!
- We need to influence those who set the rules!

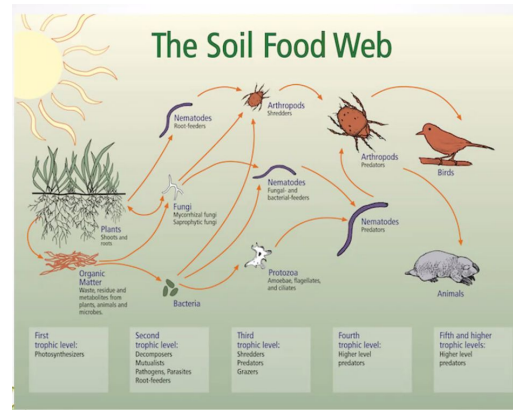
Impacts



- **Everyday impacts will be felt by all:**
 - Rising prices
 - Political instability
 - Food, water shortages
 - Spreading diseases
 - Population movements
 - Parts of the world become uninhabitable

Biodiversity

- Reasons for biodiversity loss:
 - Food production
 - Human safety
 - Climate change
- Biodiversity loss also increases climate change
 - through degradation of soils
- The loss of a few species can lead to system collapse - everything is interconnected!



Food and Biodiversity Loss



Food and Biodiversity Loss



Human Safety



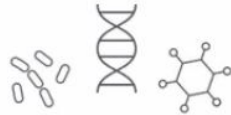
What is Biodiversity?

Source: S. L. Pimm, Britannica

Graphic: Abby Litchfield

3 TYPES OF BIODIVERSITY

The variety of life on earth



Genetic Diversity

Variety of genes and traits available within a species



Species Diversity

Variety of species within an ecosystem



Ecosystem Diversity

Variety of ecosystem and habitat types in an area of land and water



Food for thought on food

- Dairy production increased hugely in the past couple of decades
- Dire consequences: Irish dairy farmers are still allowed to use more **livestock manure** than is sustainable (“nitrates derogation”) - making conventional farming more **profitable** than organic for dairy, and degrading **waterways**
- Is local always better? ... Seasonal and organic is.
- The mode of transport matters: Planes are worse than freight ships
- Our agriculture is export-based... could we transition to sustainable Irish ag?
- Should we be more self-sufficient? What could Skerries do?
- What about **community-supported agriculture**?
- Local food networks?



Food



ofnireland@gmail.com

<https://openfoodnetwork.ie/>

- The OFN platform was one of the themes of the annual '**Feeding Ourselves**' conference held at Cloughjordan Ecovillage in March 2020, just a week before the first COVID-19 lockdown began in Ireland.
- In the months that followed a group of Irish farmers, coops and local economy advocates came together to establish the OFN platform in Ireland and set up OFN Ireland as a cooperative.
- OFN Ireland was officially launched in September 2020 and is currently on-boarding producers and identifying hubs.

Energy

- It's possible to generate energy locally!
 - Wind, solar...
- BUT: High barriers to feeding electricity into the grid.
Massive connection fees. *Need for political action....*
- Communities elsewhere in Europe **have** managed to set up community-owned electricity providers - with a lot of work.
- Solar PV restrictions are lifted on all but protected structures!
- Encouraging energy savings through retrofit very important
- Low hanging fruit:
 - Attic insulation. Window seals.
 - Stop using that (blow/tumble) drier ...

The picture shows the church in Schönau, Germany.

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elektrizit%C3%A4tswerke_Sch%C3%B6nau



Community and Resilience

How can we build up community resilience?

People

- Healthy people
- Engaged people
- Able to collaborate

Depressed, coping, or thriving?

Culture

- inclusive culture
- creative culture
- sense of belonging
- appreciation of Skerries

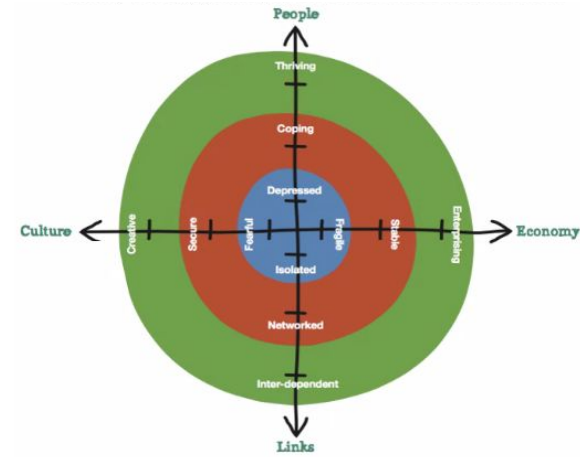
Fearful, secure, or creative?

Resilience = the ability to bounce back.

Links

- Enhanced cohesion
- Strong links to other places
- ... and communities

Isolated, networked, or interdependent?



Economy locally

- sustainable food
- sustainable energy
- sustainable housing
- sustainable work

Fragile, stable, or enterprising?

Resilience from a community point of view refers to the capacity of a local place to cope with stress, overcome adversity and adapt to change positively







Needs

- **Healthy and engaged people.**
- **Inclusive, creative local cultures shaping a positive, welcoming sense of place**
- **A localising economy that sustains food, energy, water, housing and other resources**
- **Strong links to other places and communities**



So now, over to you!

Share your thoughts where we are in Skerries regarding your topic from a sustainability / eco point of view, and where we should be

1. Transport [
2. Food [
3. Energy [
4. Biodiversity [
5. Waste / The Circular Economy [
6. Water management: Sea, river, rainwater... [

All headings will **overlap**, of course, and the question of what the biodiversity and climate crises mean for us in Skerries and how we need to adapt will underpin all discussions.

Everyone will be able to share ideas for all topics in Round 2!

And finally: What can / should we do?

Not restricted to 'your' topic from Round 1.

Answer these three questions at your table:

1. Come up with four recommendations, the more practical, the better.
 - a. What could individuals do?
 - b. What could organisations do?
 - c. What could all Skerries do?
2. One wilder wish that would really be worth it if you got the people and money!
3. What are good ways to spread the word?

Please write clearly!

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Farewell! *Slán abhaile!*

We'll be in touch...

- 1) For feedback and more ideas
(paper forms available, and also at sustainableskerries.com/eco)
 - 2) With a summary of today's results & links to get involved
- Make sure we have your email, and check your spam folder!**