

Online Version February 2025

# Skerries Eco Town



Your guide to sustainable living in our  
town.



© Niamh Sharkey



# DEAR READER



Welcome to the Skerries Eco Town Booklet, your guide to sustainable living in our community. We hope it will be useful to both newcomers and long-time residents.

Whether you're interested in tips for living more lightly at home in your household and garden, or with others in your neighbourhood or any of the many groups we find ourselves in (schools, clubs, organisations...), we're sure you'll find practical tips and inspiration within these pages.

This booklet also highlights ongoing activities organised by the growing number of environmentally-focused groups around our town - we hope you will become a part of them.

Let's all do our bit to help create a more sustainable, resilient, and connected Skerries!

This booklet was created by Sustainable Skerries volunteers, and incorporates contributions from all affiliated groups. Illustrations, unless mentioned otherwise, by Niamh Sharkey.  
Edited by Sara Reddy.

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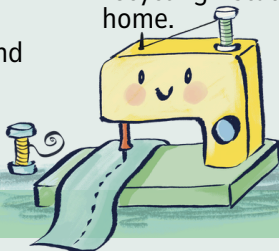
# In your household

## An eco-friendly kitchen

- Eat more plants, and look out for **seasonal, local food produce** in local shops including farm shops and every Saturday from 10am-2pm at the **Skerries Mills Farmers' Market** - check out their updates on Instagram [@skerriesmillsfarmersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/skerriesmillsfarmersmarket).
- Opt for Organic when possible. Use your "food euro" wisely! Organic farming avoids harmful chemicals, supports biodiversity, and promotes healthier soil, leading to more nutritious food and a cleaner environment.
- Planning, using those leftovers, composting all help reduce food waste: Save money and the planet! Visit [stopfoodwaste.ie](https://www.stopfoodwaste.ie) for tips and inspiration.

## Reduce waste - be part of the circular economy

- Explore your **local charity shops** to support sustainable fashion. In the town centre, you'll find NCBI Skerries and Friends of Autism and ADHD, while St. Vincent de Paul is located near Eurospar.
- Learn to upcycle old clothes and household items at a **repair café**. Check [Sustainable Skerries](#) and Skerries Library for upcoming events.
- Make recycling and composting easy for yourself. Use small caddies for your compost, and have recycling stations at home.





- The site [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie) has information on how to deal with different types of waste and where **local bottle banks** and other recycling services are located.
- Hard to recycle items such as electronic equipment, furniture, hazardous waste can be brought to the Estuary Recycling Centre in Swords.
- Watch out for **Electrical Recycling Drop Off Days** in Skerries which Fingal County Council run at regular intervals.



### Water management

- Collecting rainwater in water butts reduces reliance on mains water for watering plants and helps during dry spells. The water is also better for your plants!
- Avoid concrete and other non-permeable surfaces in your garden to reduce flooding and water pollution.
- Visit [sustainableskerries.com/water](http://sustainableskerries.com/water) for tips on water butts, rain gardens plus advice on plants which will thrive in a waterlogged patch of a garden
- Visit [water.ie](http://water.ie) for practical tips on conserving water at home like repairing leaks and to sign up for Uisce Éireann's free text alerts on water supply.



## Energy efficiency

- Energy-efficient appliances, windows, and heating systems can save money and improve performance. Get in touch with Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (S-SECI) for advice suited to the local climate and housing styles. See page 17.
- Ask S-SECI to borrow a Home Energy Kit and check your domestic energy consumption. They are free and are available at the Community Centre or the Library.
- Interested in solar panels? Contact S-SECI and take advantage of local information and expertise.





# In your garden

## Turn your garden into a sanctuary for wildlife

- A biodiverse garden supports a healthy ecosystem, attracts beneficial insects and pollinators, and creates a resilient, thriving outdoor space.
- “Gardening for Biodiversity - Create a Haven for Wildlife” is a useful online guide with relevant and local recommendations. It’s also available in print form from Sustainable Skerries.

## Support pollinators

- Choose plants that attract and support pollinators, such as lavender, marigolds, and echinacea.
- Check out [sustainableskerries.com/pollinator](https://sustainableskerries.com/pollinator) for initiatives that create pollinator corridors and enhance local biodiversity.

## Grow your own food

- Start small with easy-to-grow plants like tomatoes and herbs which are low-maintenance and can be grown in pots or containers in small spaces.
- Don’t have the space or knowledge? Consider joining the Skerries Mills Community Garden, where you can grow your own food and learn from experienced gardeners. *More on the community garden on page 22.*



# In your street

## Building community on your street

- Join your local neighbourhood group, or if there isn't one, why not start one? Check Skerries Community Association at [skerriesca.com/neighbour](http://skerriesca.com/neighbour) for a list of groups and ideas on how to set one up.
- Get in touch with your neighbours and organise annual picnics or street parties. Get inspiration from [streetfeast.ie](http://streetfeast.ie)

## Set up a mini orchard

Is there space for a mini orchard? Join the Skerries Open Orchards Project via [sustskerries@gmail.com](mailto:sustskerries@gmail.com) and see if one can be established in the next planting season (typically February). *More on Open Orchards on page 14.*



## Make your neighbourhood stand out

Why not aim to be the “Best Presented Estate” in Skerries in our local TidyTowns Committee annual awards? Work with your neighbours to make your area a place to be proud of.

## Adopt-a-patch

Is your street covered by Skerries Tidy Towns adopt-a-patch? Check out Skerries TidyTowns and volunteer to care for a designated public space near you. Cleaning materials will be provided. *See page 15.*

# Out and about In Skerries

## Enjoy outdoor spaces and activities

- Visit Skerries Open Orchards (map on page 28) and pick seasonal apples or pears. If it's spring, admire the flowers.
- Take a dip in the sea! Check out the North Beach, South Beach, or designated areas like The Springers and The Captains.
- For families, check out the Beach Toy Library on the South Strand. Visit [Sustainable Skerries](#) for more info.
- For an easier seaside experience, use a TriShaw or assist a friend—email [cyclingwithoutage@fingal.ie](mailto:cyclingwithoutage@fingal.ie) to book.
- Spot new public art commissions on [St Patrick's Way](#) and the [Art Trail](#), developed by Fingal County Council to showcase Irish talent.
- Single-use plastics are a major contributor to ocean pollution. Make sure to **leave no trace** when out and about and keep our coasts plastic free.
- Bike or walk more often to stay active and meet new people. There is now ample bike parking along our coast.





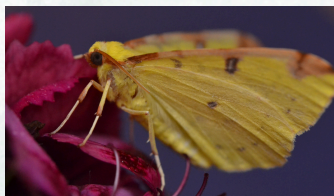
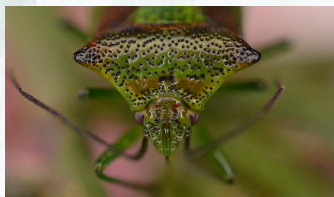
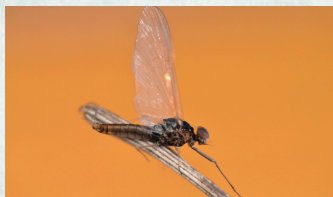


## Unwind

- Relax at Skerries Mills Community Garden with a tea or coffee from the Mills café, and watch for bees around the wildflowers and lavender.
- Join Skerries Cycling Initiative and sign up to their email newsletter at [skerriescycling@gmail.com](mailto:skerriescycling@gmail.com) to stay updated on upcoming activities.
- Take the train or bus to visit our neighbouring towns and leave the car behind when possible. It's a great way to travel sustainably!
- Visit the Sensory Garden in Floraville which is a calm and relaxed space. It also has pollinator-friendly plants! Find out more at [skerriesautismfriendly.ie](http://skerriesautismfriendly.ie).
- Bike, rollerblade, or skateboard at the skate park near the Skerries Mills.
- Subscribe to the Skerries Newsflash to find out about local events by emailing "Newsflash Subscription" to [newsflash@skerriesca.com](mailto:newsflash@skerriesca.com).
- Call into the Community Centre to look at our Eco Town Wall which has updates on upcoming events.

## Explore nature and wildlife

- Keep an eye out for Birdwatch Ireland walks and talks at Joe May's Pub. Check [bwifingal.ie](http://bwifingal.ie) for upcoming events.
- Take a walk around the Head to spot birds and bees, with infographics to help you identify them.
- Take a look at the Bee Map on page 29 to find where the Large Carder Bees, one of Ireland's rarest bumblebees, can be seen in Skerries.
- Visit the Ballast Pit and appreciate the stunning wildlife. Check [sustainableskerries.com](http://sustainableskerries.com) for the next Guided Biodiversity walk.



These tiny creatures were photographed around Skerries by Leo Carroll [@friendly.neighbourhood.bug](https://www.instagram.com/friendly.neighbourhood.bug) on Instagram. Get up close and see the wonders of their tiny world.



# In your clubs, schools, and businesses

## Clubs

- If your club's location lacks bike parking, get in touch with Fingal Active Travel or Skerries Cycling Initiative for assistance.
- Encourage carpooling for matches and trips to minimise emissions.
- Choose pollinator friendly plants for your premises. Contact Sustainable Skerries for advice.
- Reduce single-use plastics at training and events by using reusable glasses, plates, and cutlery.

## Schools

- Motivate walking to school. Get inspired by the WOW - Walk on Wednesday's campaign led by the Green Schools Programme.
- Set up a cycle or walking bus. Email [active.travel@fingal.ie](mailto:active.travel@fingal.ie) for support.
- Create a school garden to teach students about biodiversity. Sustainable Skerries can advise on suitable and easy-to-maintain plants for your area.



## Local businesses



Businesses in Skerries are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices, such as reducing single-use plastics and promoting the use of reusable containers - encourage them by seeking out the ones that do!

Bring your Keep Cup and enjoy discounts at some local spots! Supported by Skerries Tidy Towns and their Reusable Cup Campaign.

Invest in a reusable water bottle and refill them while you're out to save money and cut down on single-use plastic. Skerries Tidy Towns are working with local businesses to urge them to refill water bottles for free. You can also use the water refill station at the Community Centre and the playground at Skerries Mills.

Businesses can consider simple measures like installing motion-sensor lights to cut down on unnecessary energy use. For advice on energy-saving solutions, businesses can contact S-SECI (Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative).



# Joining a group

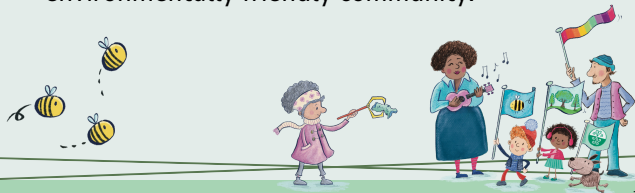


Getting involved is a fun and rewarding way to make a positive impact. Check out the next pages for more details on these groups and how you can participate.

Find something you are passionate about, and join our efforts in making Skerries the most sustainable town it can be!

The groups mentioned over the next few pages collaborate on local projects to promote sustainability and improve biodiversity in Skerries.

Whether you're planting fruit trees, improving cycling infrastructure, enhancing energy efficiency, or advocating for sustainable policies, there's something for everyone, regardless of age or ability. Not only will you contribute to crucial environmental efforts, but you'll also meet others who are passionate about contributing to a greener and more environmentally friendly community.





# SUSTAINABLE SKERRIES




## ABOUT US



We are dedicated to making Skerries a resilient, regenerative, and great place to live for this generation and the next. As part of the Skerries Community Association, we focus on various areas like biodiversity, water management, sustainable food practices, the circular economy, and waste reduction. We often team up with other groups such as S-SECI on sustainable energy initiatives and with Skerries Cycling Initiative to promote sustainable mobility. We also engage with Fingal County Council, participating in consultations for the upcoming Fingal Development Plan and more. Join us!

Get in contact

Email us at [sustskerries@gmail.com](mailto:sustskerries@gmail.com)



## Opportunities to get involved

- Join our informal Chat4SustainableSkerries WhatsApp group, where we share local updates on environmental, biodiversity, sustainability, and climate action topics relevant to Skerries. Email us for the WhatsApp join link.
- Join our committee to get involved in ongoing projects or suggest new ideas! We meet once a month.
- We frequently organise activities including walks, talks, workshops, and community projects. Check our website for updates on upcoming activities.
- Subscribe to our email newsletter. Get monthly updates on our activities, upcoming events, and practical advice on living more sustainably in Skerries.

## Join our Water Project

- Our water project focuses on what we can do around Skerries to improve water quality & biodiversity, and reduce flooding in the town. Ultimately to benefit the stream and our bathing waters.
- Help research & implement practical measures we can take to improve water quality. We're working with an expert on a report identifying nature-based solutions we could use in Skerries.
- Help demonstrate simple things we can all do to slow down & clean up rain water. See our rainwater planter & water butt at the Community Centre!
- Help raise awareness of the issues, like pollution caused by rainwater runoff from hard surfaces and the link between heavy rain and no swim notices.

## Join our Open Orchards Project

Through this project, we aim to plant fruit trees by the community, for the community. When ripe, the fruit will be available for anyone to pick. Interested in boosting local biodiversity and sustainable food practices? Gather your neighbours to set up a mini orchard. Email us at [sustskerries@gmail.com](mailto:sustskerries@gmail.com) to discuss the next steps. If there is no space in your neighbourhood, join the Skerries Open Orchards Project, where we plant and care for community orchards throughout Skerries. As of 2024, we have 12 open orchards with 150 trees and are always looking for more volunteers to help care for them.

## Key Event

Each September, we host the Skerries Eco Festival. Be sure to check our website for the upcoming date!

## Social media

Website: [www.sustainableskerries.com](http://www.sustainableskerries.com)

Facebook: [Sustainable Skerries](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableSkerries)

Instagram: [@sustainableskerries](https://www.instagram.com/sustainableskerries)

Youtube: [@sustainableskerries](https://www.youtube.com/sustainableskerries)





# SKERRIES TIDY TOWNS

## ABOUT US

Skerries TidyTowns are dedicated to protecting the environment, preserving the town's unique character, and working towards a sustainable future for our community. We're part of the Skerries Community Association and are active in the community from February to October. Our activities range from clearing litter black spots, removing graffiti, painting public seating to planting incidental areas for biodiversity. Our SEAL initiative (Skerries Everyone Against Litter) runs in the local schools. It encourages children to keep a public area near their school litter free. As a volunteer group, we're always on the lookout for more people to join us!

Get in contact

Email us at [tidytownsskerries@gmail.com](mailto:tidytownsskerries@gmail.com)



## Opportunities to get involved

- Join our committee! We welcome people who are interested in biodiversity, streetscape, built environment, litter control, sustainability, and more.
- Volunteer at one of our weekly “work parties”. Drop by on Mondays at 2 PM (except on Bank Holidays) at the Old Fire Station on Quay St. Whether it’s painting, cleaning road signs, weeding, or planting flowers, there’s always a variety of jobs to do, and everyone is welcome!
- We are in dire need of someone with good IT skills to work with us. If this is you then please get in touch!
- Is your area part of the Skerries Tidy Towns Adopt-a-Patch program? If not, consider volunteering to care for a designated public space near you. We’ll provide guidance and cleaning materials to support your efforts.

## Social media

Facebook: Skerries Tidy Towns





# SKERRIES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

## ABOUT US

The Vision of SSECI: Assisting our community of Skerries to build energy resilience and move towards becoming a more dynamic and sustainability-focused, energy efficient town with a thriving local economy. We are a small, dedicated committee and a part of the Skerries Community Association. We would be very happy to include other members interested in energy use and sustainable energy matters in the Skerries area.

### Get in contact

Email us at [skerries.seci@gmail.com](mailto:skerries.seci@gmail.com)

### Opportunities to get involved

- Send us an email and join the next committee meeting. We meet once a month and are currently doing 1-2 projects/events every year. Start by meeting the committee and let us discuss what could work for you.

- Help create events that focus on reducing energy use and generating/using sustainable energy in the local area.
- Aid with implementing solutions in the local area that helps the community to have an affordable and sustainable use of energy.



## **SKERRIES CYCLING INITIATIVE**

### **ABOUT US**

We're a volunteer group committed to making cycling and walking in Skerries safer and more accessible for everyone. Whether you're commuting, running errands, enjoying a leisurely ride, or just wishing cycling were easier and safer, we're here to help. Our goal is to enhance conditions for all types of cyclists from school kids to sports enthusiasts, and advocate for those who don't currently cycle but would love to if it were safer or

more convenient. We are a part of the Skerries Community Association.

### Get in contact

Email us at [skerriescycling@gmail.com](mailto:skerriescycling@gmail.com)

### Opportunities to get involved

- Join the SCI email Newsletter list – just send an email to [skerriescycling@gmail.com](mailto:skerriescycling@gmail.com).
- Join us at one of our social cycles. Follow our Facebook page to keep up to date with upcoming events.
- Join the committee in its work – contact us at [skerriescycling@gmail.com](mailto:skerriescycling@gmail.com) to find out more.
- Help organise local events that highlight the benefits of active travel, including social cycles, bike repair workshops, and cycling lessons.
- Help us in our work with Fingal Active Travel (the sub regional group of the Irish Cycling Campaign) to advocate for better cycling conditions in Fingal and Ireland generally.

### Social media

Facebook: [Skerries Cycling Initiative](#)





# SKERRIES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CLG

## ABOUT US

We are an umbrella group comprising a board of directors and eight committees: Board of Management of Skerries Community Centre, Skerries Tidy Towns, Skerries Town Twinning, Skerries Cycling Initiative, Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative, Sustainable Skerries, Age Friendly Skerries, Skerries Autism Friendly Town. Our aim is to make this great town of Skerries even better for all who live, work or visit here. Our core values are sustainability and inclusion. We are volunteers and the company is a non profit organisation.

Get in contact

You can get in contact by emailing [info@skerriesca.com](mailto:info@skerriesca.com)

## Opportunities to get involved

- You can join as a member of the association and/or sign up for our Newsflash email.
- Anyone can sign up for the Newsflash via our website [www.skerriesca.com](http://www.skerriesca.com).
- When we have vacancies on the board of directors, these are advertised via our annual flyer prior to our AGM each year and via our newsflash.
- To become a director you must be a member of the company. If you are a member of the company, you can vote at our AGM. If you are interested in becoming a director, email [info@skerriesca.com](mailto:info@skerriesca.com). Our legal structure is a company limited by guarantee (CLG). The board of directors is responsible for overseeing the work of the whole company.

## Social media

X (twitter): [@SkerriesCA](https://twitter.com/SkerriesCA)

Facebook: [Skerries Community Association - SCA](https://www.facebook.com/SkerriesCommunityAssociation-SCA)







# SKERRIES MILLS COMMUNITY GARDEN

## ABOUT US

At Skerries Mills Community Garden, we provide a shared space where locals can grow their own food, learn about sustainable gardening, and connect with nature. Located beside the Skerries Mills, we want to promote food security, sustainability, and local biodiversity. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just starting out, there is a place for you in our garden.

### Get in contact

Send an email to Charlie at [charleseheasman@gmail.com](mailto:charleseheasman@gmail.com)

### Opportunities to get involved

- We are at the garden most Sundays from 11am-1pm. Come on down!
- Get your hands dirty and help us grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and wildflowers.
- Help us organise events like our annual Wild Bee Festival.



- Attend our gardening workshops and learn how to embrace your green thumb at home.

### Key Events

1. Every summer we host the Wild Bee Festival in collaboration with Fingal County Council. Join us at our next one!
2. Every autumn, help us welcome the changing seasons with our annual Scarecrow Festival.



### ABOUT US

**Living in harmony with nature** is our primary focus at BirdWatch Ireland (BWI). Our Fingal branch is very keen to play its part in protecting in Fingal's rich but fragile biodiversity and enhancing the natural world of our county and beyond. Birds are an iconic part of our ecosystem, helping people connect with nature in their everyday lives. Raising awareness in a coordinated and

effective manner combined with activities that nurture an appreciation of the beauty and wonder of these amazing creatures can inspire collective action. We also eagerly support other local organisations in a through reserve management, conservation projects, outings, talks, festival participation, and more.

### Get in contact

The easiest way to get involved is to email  
[bwifingal@gmail.com](mailto:bwifingal@gmail.com).

### Opportunities to get involved

- Become a member of BWI.
- Participate in surveys such as i-Webs and Countryside Bird Survey which help monitor and conserve Ireland's bird population.
- Volunteer for projects like the Portrane Little Tern Project or doing maintenance and management at the Nature Reserve in Rogerstown.
- Participate in Skerries and Fingal Bird Walks.
- Attend the Winter Series of Talks as advertised in Wings magazine and on the Branch website.
- Join local Initiatives which protect and enhance biodiversity and the birdlife that depends on it.

### Social media

Website: <https://bwifingal.ie>

X (twitter): [@BWIFingal](https://twitter.com/BWIFingal)

Facebook: [Bwi Fingal](https://www.facebook.com/BwiFingal)

Instagram: [@bwifingal](https://www.instagram.com/bwifingal)





# COASTWATCH

## ABOUT US

Coastwatch Europe (CWE) is an international network of environmental groups, universities, and educational institutions working with local groups and individuals along the European coast. Based in Ireland and led by Karin Dubsy from TCD, Coastwatch leverages citizen science to conduct annual surveys of coastal and marine litter, pollution, water quality, and biodiversity. These surveys, which take place between mid-September and mid-October, help monitor issues like coastal flooding, erosion, and marine protection, influencing policy at both national and local levels.

### Get in contact

To get involved in Coastwatch in Skerries, contact Dara Mac Domhnaill, a local coordinator at [daramacd@hotmail.com](mailto:daramacd@hotmail.com). Dara works with Fingal regional coordinator Michael Walsh or Karin as required.

### Opportunities to get involved

- Contact Dara to join the Coastwatch WhatsApp groups. There is one for Skerries and Loughshinny and another for Fingal and Meath as a whole.

- Take part in the annual Coastwatch survey, from mid-September to mid-October. New and old participants are welcome to survey a 500-metre coastal unit, including the Skerries islands starting in 2024. You'll survey litter, pollution, and biodiversity, with full training and support available. Find out more at [www.coastwatch.org/all-ireland-survey](http://www.coastwatch.org/all-ireland-survey)

Social media

Website: [www.coastwatch.org](http://www.coastwatch.org)



## SKERRIES STREAM HUGGERS

### ABOUT US

Skerries Stream Huggers is a small group of local activists focused on protecting the health of Skerries' freshwater bodies, including the Mill Stream (locally known as "the Brook") and two ponds. As an offshoot of Skerries TidyTowns, we work to reduce pollution, monitor water quality, and influence local policy to improve the state of these valuable water systems.

## Get in contact

To get involved, contact Dara at [daramacd@hotmail.com](mailto:daramacd@hotmail.com)

## Opportunities to get involved

- Removing litter and dumped rubbish from the stream
- Testing the stream and ponds for nitrate and phosphates monthly in 5 locations using kits provided by Freshwater Watch.
- Working to influence Fingal County Council policy in relation to the stream, ponds and town park more broadly.
- Removal of invasive species such as Himalayan balsam.
- Networking with other freshwater activists in Fingal, Dublin, Meath and beyond.

You don't have to get your hands dirty—there's something for everyone!

## Future plans

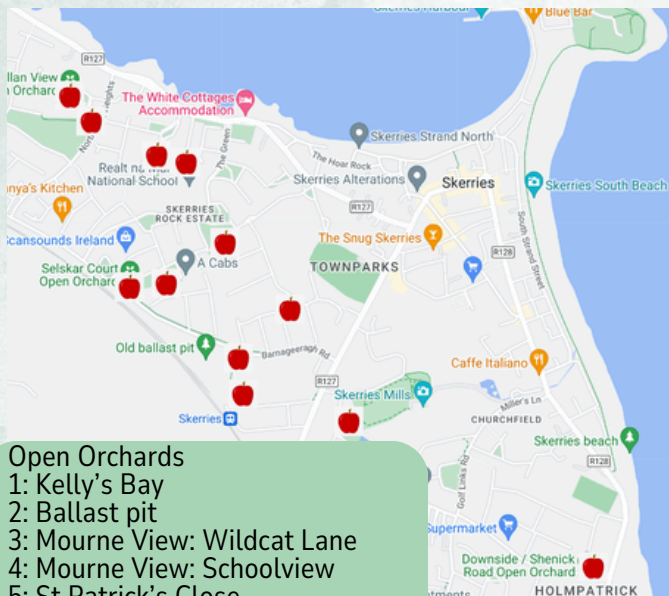
- Exploring the primarily agricultural upper stream catchment for pollution sources.
- Monitoring the stream for otter activity using a trail camera funded by the NPWS!
- Building the wider activist network to share knowledge and workload.



# MAPS

Skerries Open Orchards (2024).

See latest version at [sustainableskerries.com/orchards](https://sustainableskerries.com/orchards)

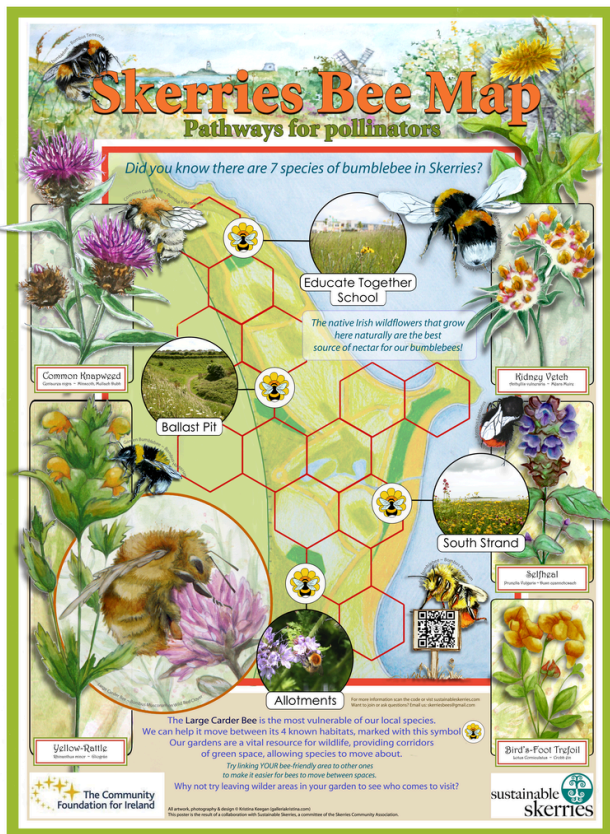


## Open Orchards

- 1: Kelly's Bay
- 2: Ballast pit
- 3: Mourne View: Wildcat Lane
- 4: Mourne View: Schoolview
- 5: St Patrick's Close
- 6: Selskar Court
- 7: Skerries Rock The Vale
- 8: Skerries Rock The Lawn
- 9: Greenlawns
- 10: Ardgillan View
- 11: Townparks/Newtownparks
- 12: Downside/Shenick Road









## Skerries Eco Town Wall in the Skerries Community Centre

The Skerries Community Centre, part of the Skerries Community Association, has a big heart for the greening of our town: In recent years, they have created bee-friendly planters and gardens, added safe bike parking spaces, set up a **Water Refill Station**, and explored renewable energy. All lighting has been replaced with LEDs, and together with Sustainable Skerries, a water butt and a rainwater garden were established. Prompted by a suggestion from the Skerries Community Centre, Sustainable Skerries commissioned local artist Niamh Sharkey to create the Skerries Eco Town Wall. Come visit it just outside the Big Hall and pick up some current information, too!



Thank you for your sponsorship of this booklet:

  
**GERRY'S**  
**FRESH FOODS**

**THE BEST OF GERRY'S OWN  
& LOCAL GROWN PRODUCE**

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GO GREEN WITH PCU'S CURRENT ACCOUNT ONLINE  
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VISIT [WWW.PROGRESSIVECU.IE](http://WWW.PROGRESSIVECU.IE)

Our Current Account Online Complete Loan offers a competitive APR of 6.17%, making it easier and more affordable to turn your sustainability goals into reality.

BORROW	TERM	APR	REPAYMENTS	COST/TOTAL REPAID
€25,000	84 MONTHS	6.17%	€365	€5,673/ €30,673

Scan the QR code to learn more.  
For any assistance, feel free to  
contact us at [info@progressivecu.ie](mailto:info@progressivecu.ie)  
or call us on 01-8411348  
— our team is here to help!



From First Steps to Golden Years

Progressive Credit Union Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland

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Your guide to  
sustainable living  
in our town.  
2025

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