

European Green Leaf 2017 – Update August to November 2017

Arlene Finn 16.11.2017

Appointments:

Arlene Finn, the new EGL Coordinator started in August 2017.

Meetings:

Stakeholder meetings have taken place over the past number of months, including:

- Environmental Linkage Group Galway City Community Network
- An Mheitheal Rothar
- An Taisce Green-Schools
- An Taisce Think Before you Flush/ Clean Coasts
- Bardzo Ladnie Foundation
- Birdwatch Ireland
- EPA Green Business/ Clean Technology Centre
- European Region of Gastronomy
- Failte Ireland
- Galway2020
- NUI Galway
- Third Space
- Transition Galway
- Youth Work Ireland

Grants:

EGL grants awarded since August include:

- European Green Leaf 'General' grant (13 successful applicants, with projects including community gardens, ReCupán reusable cup campaign, Third Space, Terryland Forest Park, Friends of Merlin Woods, and Youth Work Ireland among others)
- Schools Climate Action Week grant (four schools successfully applied)
- NUI Galway biodiversity trail – printing and information boards for a self-guided walk on the NUI Galway campus. This resource will complement the Galway City Story Map (*see future actions below*)
- Youth Work Ireland fashion upcycling programme
- Support of Convergence Festival 2017

Other Activities

- As part of Galway's membership of the **EGL Network**, Arlene Finn presented on mobility in Galway, at the CIVITAS conference in Torres Vedras, Portugal in September 2017.
- Support of the **Slow the Flow Launch** - GCC Water Department in conjunction with Irish Water, 8th November 2017 at City Hall
- Presenting at the **Open Door seminar series**, in Westside Resource Centre 7th November –
- Support of **ReCupán** by Transition Galway, in conjunction with NUI Galway second year commerce students from the ALIVE programme. ReCupán encourages businesses to give a discount to customers using reusable cups

Flagship Events

Community Gardens Harvest Celebration seminar (20th October) – which was attended by over 120 people, with speakers including: Charles Dowding of BBC Gardeners World, Dr Colin Sage, chair of the Cork Food Policy Council Steering Committee, and Dee Sewell, Community Gardens Ireland. This event was organised in conjunction with Galway City Partnership, Let's Get Galway Growing and the Galway City Community Gardens.

Sharing Galway City's Sustainability Stories (15th November 2017) – with a panel of speakers sharing their part of the 'sustainability story' for Galway, as part of the launch of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy.

Speakers included:

- Lieze Fanning, Galway City Council
- Mark Kelly, GMIT
- Tiarnan McCusker, Green-Schools Ireland

- Tim Folan, Ingersoll Rand – Thermo King,
- Philippa Maguire, Maguire's Mugs
- Eileen O'Connell, Interactions Research
- Barry Dillon, Venture Out
- Lynda Huxley, Swift Conservation Ireland / Heritage Council / GMIT
- Deputy President, Pól Ó Dochartaigh, NUIG
- Professor Colin Brown, NUIG
- Dr Frances Fahy, NUIG

Future activities include:

- **National seminar** on environmental management in events/ festivals – in partnership with Galway 2020, European Region of Gastronomy, Failte Ireland, and the Irish Centre for Responsible Tourism
- Development and launch of a **biodiversity story map** for Galway City, in conjunction with Birdwatch Ireland
- Workshop with GCCN and other relevant groups to look at potential **legacy projects** for EGL
- Hosting the **EGL network** meeting in 2018 (proposed dates in early February)
- Growing in Small Spaces seminar, in conjunction with GCP and the community gardens

Additional events and activities are also planned.