

**PRESS RELEASE 16th May 2024**

**Wexford County Council hosts KIMO International Board Meeting**

Wexford County Council is hosting the 2 day KIMO International Board Meeting on 15th & 16th May at County Hall, Wexford. A workshop for Irish Local Authorities was held in County Hall yesterday (15th May) on KIMO **Kommunernes International Miljøorganisation (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation)** and the benefits for other County Councils to join. The KIMO International board Meeting takes place today in the Council Chamber in Wexford. Members of KIMO International from other countries are among the 25-30 delegates in attendance.

**About KIMO**

*Together for cleaner seas*

KIMO is a network of local authorities, working together for healthy seas, clean beaches, and thriving coastal communities.

With over 80 member municipalities in eight countries, it represents more than five million citizens in Europe. KIMO was founded in Denmark in 1990. Its mission is to prevent pollution and to protect, preserve and enhance the seas and coastal waters of the North-East Atlantic and Baltic regions.

The members work to find, implement and share positive solutions. KIMO believes that through cooperation and collaboration, Members can tackle the most pressing challenges facing the marine environment. Together, KIMO is a powerful voice that influences decision makers at regional, national and international levels.

KIMO members also enjoy opportunities to exchange knowledge and experience nationally and internationally, keep up to date with important developments in laws and regulations and to develop and take part in projects with real local impacts. For more information check out KIMO at <https://www.kimointernational.org/>

**Wexford Meeting.**

Topics for discussion at the meeting include plastic pollution, plastic and other wastes on beaches and how they are dealt with, water pollution & water quality, Agricultural Pollution of inland waterways and rivers.

KIMO has been responsible for successful initiatives such as the fishing for litter scheme which has removed over 330 tonnes of litter from the seas in Ireland in recent years and it has lobbied for the reduction in marine pollution this for example has resulted in a decline in paraffin pollution in North Atlantic & Baltic Seas. It focuses on such areas as plastic pollution and marine litter, offshore energy, maritime safety and pollution from ships, hazardous waste and dumping at sea.

Captain Phil Murphy, Senior Marine Officer with Wexford County Council said “ *that being a member of KIMO International will help Wexford as a coastal county gain knowledge and ideas for dealing with issues such as marine pollution common to all the member local authorities. The networking and common advocacy will give the Council a greater voice in campaigning on issues that will help alleviate pollution and promote cleaner seas and a healthier environment”.*

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