

The National Spring Clean – All you need to know

The following headings should provide you with all the information you need to run a successful Spring Clean event.

The Basics – How to Organise an Event

1. Pick the area you want to clean-up
2. Pick a date/dates when the your event is going to take place
3. Register your event with An Taisce at www.nationalspringclean.org or by telephone – 01 4002219. You will then be sent a clean-up kit.
4. Inform as many different members of your wider community about the event as possible. This pack contains an NSC poster which can be copied and has a space for you to enter details of your event. Be creative in your advertising!
5. Contact your Local Authority; let them know the date and location of your clean-up. They will assist you with the efficient removal of collect rubbish and recyclables after the event.

- Contact detail, including web addresses, for all Local Authorities can be found online at: <http://www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentAdministration/LocalAuthorities/>

Your Local authority may also be able to help with providing clean-up equipment including; litter pickers, heavy-duty gloves, refuse sacks, wheelbarrows, skips, rakes and shovels.

Health and Safety

The following health and safety measures should be adhered to when organising an event.

1. Risk Assessment

Carry out a risk assessment of your chosen site before the event. This is an examination of the

possible risks that could cause harm to your volunteers. You should look for the following hazards:

- Unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, other hazardous substances, broken glass, condoms, syringes, etc.
- Deep or fast flowing water, dangerous currents or tides, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, mud holes, derelict buildings, electric fences etc.

For each hazard identified you can decide what precautions are needed

If you do find any dangerous items make a note of their location and inform the local authority who will pick them up prior to your event.



2. Working with Children

If children are involved in your event, they must be supervised at all times – no more than eight children to one adult is advisable.

3. Working near Water

- Liaise with appropriate bodies, e.g. Environmental Protection Agency, local angling or water sports clubs, and lifeguards to check whether there are any possible hazards.
- Do not plan the clean-up near deep mud, steep, slippery or crumbling banks, or polluted water.
- Check the depth of water where possible, as well as times of tides and fluctuations of flow.
- Ensure that non-swimmers and children keep away from the water's edge.
- Ensure there is a trained lifesaver present.
- Ensure that people wearing waders are accompanied by a partner with a safety line.
- Weil's Disease is a bacterial disease which is spread mainly by the urine of infected animals, especially rats. To prevent the spread of the disease volunteers should wear strong waterproof boots and gloves. Any cuts or grazes should be carefully covered up before the clean-up event with waterproof plasters.

3. Working near Roads and Lay-bys

- Initially, restrict groups to work on footpaths and verges with a 60 KM per hour speed limit or below.
- Children under 12 should not pick up litter by the roadside.
- Volunteers should wear hi-visibility clothing and warning signs should be placed at either end of the stretch of road while work is in progress.

4. On the Day

Appoint an event coordinator who will:

- Brief on emergency procedures;
 - Organise volunteers into teams;
 - Distribute and collect equipment;
 - Specify where rubbish should be left.
- All Participants should wear gloves.
 - Hands should be washed before and after handling litter. Do not eat or drink without washing hands thoroughly.
 - A first aid kit should be present at the clean-up



5. Insurance

Groups registered for the National Spring Clean with An Taisce are automatically covered by An Taisce's Public Liability Insurance policy. Public Liability covers the organizer(s) of a clean-up in the event of an accident occurring to a volunteer or a member of the public or their property that may be attributed to the organiser's negligence, or to that of one of their volunteers.



- Keep gates closed and avoid cleaning up natural materials such as logs, stones and weeds. They may look untidy but they are often home to animals and birds.



Recycling Initiative

Recycling is an important part of the National spring clean. Separate colour-coded bags are provided for the collection and segregation of recyclable cans and plastic bottles. Please ensure these bags are used correctly.

Blue Bags – Food and drink cans only, no paint pots

Yellow Bags – Plastic bottles. No polystyrene, no yogurt bottle/pots, no DIY chemical bottles.

Protect Local Biodiversity

Clean-up events should not adversely affect local biodiversity (flora and fauna)

- Be considerate to wildlife if working in countryside, parks, woodland, around shrubbery, hedgerows, ditches or open spaces. April is the time of year when many animals are nesting and plants are making new growth, so extra care needs to be taken

Promoting Your Event

Clean-ups can be excellent community events and make great local stories.

An Taisce will contact local media with details of every event which we have information on. In order to increase the chance of the media picking up on your event please give us as much information on your event as possible when registering or later when you have more information. If you have provided us with an email contact when registering we will email you asking for any details you may have of your event. If you have registered on-line you will have the capability to fill in details about your event at anytime on our website.

The more imaginative your events the more likely it will be covered.



How to get the information you need

ENFO is Ireland's Public information service on environmental matters, including litter and waste management. The service provides public access to wide-ranging and authoritative information in various formats from leaflets to interactive computer models and an extensive library of material on paper, microfiche and computer disk.

ENFO is a service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. ENFO has a drop-in centre and library at 17 Andrew st. Dublin 2. Opening times: 10.00 to 17.00 (except Sundays and public holidays). Tel: 1890 200 191. Web: www.enfo.ie



How to recycle

Remember the 3 Rs: Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

Minimisation of Waste

The best way to reduce the impact of waste on the environment is to avoid producing it in the first place. Waste generation is on the increase. Household and commercial waste increased by over 300,000 tonnes between 2002 and 2004 to nearly 3 million tonnes. YOU can make a positive difference by thinking about the impact of how you shop:

- Avoid products that use excess packaging.
- Buy refills where possible. If practical, buy one large container rather than several little ones – it uses less packaging and is cheaper too. Many printer cartridges can now be refilled in

special shops or donated to charity for recycling.

- Choose loose fruit and vegetables, avoid pre-packaged ones.
- Buy concentrated products where possible, e.g. concentrated washing detergent - these use less packaging.

Reuse

- Avoid using polystyrene cups that will be thrown away, instead use washable mugs.
- Use cloth napkins and dishcloths instead of paper ones.

An Taisce 



- Use rechargeable batteries to save yourself money and to keep toxic metals found in some batteries out of the waste stream.
- SNUB - Say No to Unwanted Bags. Always use a reusable shopping bag, or reuse plastic bags. Don't accept bags you don't need!

Recycle

The combined recycling rate of household and commercial waste (municipal waste) in 2004 was 32.8%. Of this 19.5% of household and 50.8% of commercial waste was recycled. Recycling helps reduce the need for new materials to be produced, which in turn helps to protect scarce natural resources. Recycling also reduces the amount going to landfill sites - manmade holes in the ground where waste is buried. Space in landfills is running out fast. It was estimated in 2004 that the combined landfill capacity of Ireland's 34 municipal landfills is only eight years.

- Milk bottles - the average milk bottle is reused many times before it is recycled. Rinse and then return them to your milkman.
- Old clothes - take your old clothes and shoes to charity shops, jumble sales or clothes banks to be reused.



- Aluminium foil - clean, well-compacted aluminium foil is a valuable source of income for many charity shops. Check with your local charity shop to see if they accept washed bottle tops and tin foil.
- Aluminium cans - almost 60% of the cans used in Ireland each year are made of aluminium and they are 100% recyclable. Up to 95% of the energy used in primary aluminium production is saved by recycling. Take your cans to recycling banks. Crushing your used cans will save space in the kitchen and means that more can be squeezed into the recycling bank.
- Plastic bottles – most household plastic packaging is recyclable. Most plastic containers are coded by numbers 1 to 6 or by letters (such as PET, PETE, LDPE, PP, PS) according to their plastic type. Check with your local recycling centre for which types of plastic they take. Wash, Squash and remove the lids and bring your clean bottles to your nearest recycling centre/civic amenity site for recycling. No Yogurt cartons, spread tubs, Polystyrene, DIY or Chemical bottles.
- Glass – do not mix colours of glass, as colour contamination destroys the quality of recycled material. Blue glass should go into the green glass container. Recycle all household bottles and jars. No Ceramic, Pyrex, Cookware or glassware should be placed in recycling banks.
- Recycling facilities - make full use of the available recycling facilities in your area. If you don't know where they are, contact your local authority who will provide you with a list or visit www.repak.ie. Tetra Pak cartons, Waste electrical equipment and white goods, computers, textiles, timber, metals, tyres, batteries, cds and videos and many other items can be brought to most Civic Amenity recycling centres. Check what items your local recycling centres take with your local authority. Phones and ink cartridges can be given to a range of charities for recycling. Ink cartridges can also be refilled in special shops or by various organisations nationwide.

- It is especially important to remember to recycle during your NSC clean-up event. That way, not only are you removing the litter from your area, but you are also ensuring that recyclable litter does not simply end up at landfill. If practical, maybe one person on your litter-pick can collect cans, another plastics, another paper etc. At the end of your clean-up event, be sure to bring your recyclable litter to your nearest recycling facility – otherwise it may just end up as litter again!

To encourage recycling in your home introduce separate bins for Rubbish, Dry Recyclables and Compost. Store used glass, plastic bottles and cans in your garden shed or garage and make one trip for all materials to your nearest recycling centre.

Composting

- If you have a garden, why not start a compost heap using kitchen food and garden waste? Organic materials recycled in this way provide valuable nutrients for your soil. Compost also improves the soil structure and encourages a more vigorous root system.
- Don't use cooked foods, especially cooked meats, to make compost.
- If you have a small garden, a compost bin or a wormery composter takes up less space and produces ready to use compost more quickly than a traditional compost heap. Try starting a community compost heap with your friends and neighbours.



Electrical and Electronic Recycling

Did you know that WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) can be anything with a plug or a battery? You can bring WEEE back to retailers for recycling free of charge when you purchase a new electrical item of similar type and function. Retailers are also obliged to take-back WEEE free of charge on delivery of a new product. Alternatively you can bring WEEE back to your local civic amenity site free of charge.

What is WEEE?

WEEE (waste electrical & electronic equipment) includes not only household electrical equipment such as fridge freezers and washing machines but also small items like hairdryers, electric tools, remote controls, battery operated toys, mobile phones - essentially anything with a plug or a battery.

Many people know that they can recycle their old washing machine but you can also recycle old torches, alarm clocks, electronic toys, calculators & any small electronic devices from the household. Have a good spring clean you would be amazed at



the amount of small WEEE items in drawers, garages, attics etc.,

Wheelie Bin Symbol -

The crossed out wheelie bin symbol means DO NOT dispose of that piece of electrical or electronic equipment in your household waste as to do so may cause health risks and harm the environment.



PRF (Producer Recycling Fund)

The Producer Recycling Fund (PRF) identifies the contribution towards the environmental management cost involved in the collection and recycling of spent/broken/waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The full retail price shown by the retailer must be inclusive of the PRF. Some electrical and electronic equipment doesn't have a visible Producer Recycling Fund contribution (e.g. toys, watches, IT and telecommunication equipment), but such WEEE can still be recycled and must be taken back by the retailer free of charge.

Electrical & Electronic Recycling - What can you do?

Re-Use – If your electrical or electronic item is in good working order why not pass it on to a friend or charity that could make good use of it? You can also 'freecycle' on free trade websites such as www.dublinwaste.ie

Retailers Bring Back

- Retailers are required by law to take back waste electrical and electronic equipment from customers free of charge. Take back is on a one-for-one basis only and the appliance being returned must be of a similar type or have performed the same function as the new item purchased. For example, retailers are not obliged to accept a fridge where the consumer has purchased a toaster.

Where goods are bought over the counter, retailers must take back the old product in-store either at the time of sale or within a maximum of 15 days of the date of sale. Where a new appliance or equipment is being delivered, for example a new washing machine, cooker etc., the retailer must take back the old appliance free of charge, and must give at least 24 hrs notice of delivery (48 hrs recommended in the case of appliances that need to be defrosted)-

(i) on the delivery of a new product, provided the

old product has been disconnected from any utilities and is ready for immediate collection, other than WEEE that presents a health and safety risk, (ii) at their premises within a maximum of 30 days from the date of delivery. Whichever take-back option a consumer avails of must be free of charge.

Civic Amenity Sites

Each local authority must accept household WEEE free of charge at its civic amenity facilities from private householders. Local authorities can no longer charge gate fees for WEEE from private householders. Contact your local council for details or visit www.weeeireland.ie for information on your nearest recycling centre and relevant opening hours.

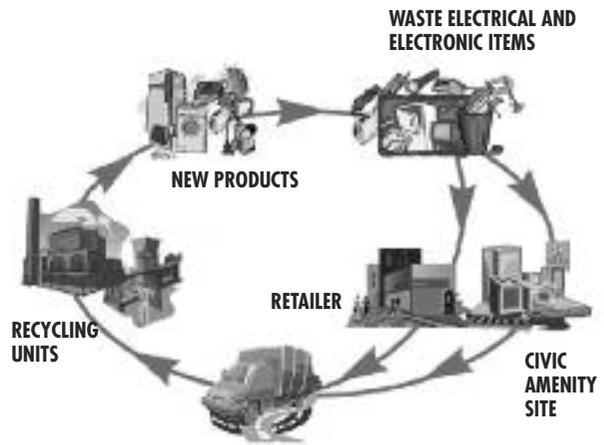
What Happens to the old equipment?

WEEE is taken to specialist processing plants, which are authorised to treat WEEE. The recovery operators ensure that all equipment collected undergoes necessary treatments e.g. removal of CFC gases and other hazardous components such as batteries, mercury containing components. This ensures that WEEE is safely and processed in an environmentally sound way and the maximum amount of base materials can be separated out and recovered. Recoverable materials, such as iron, copper, aluminium, glass and plastic are then reused for the production of new goods.

Why recycle you Electrical and Electronic Equipment?

WEEE no longer disposed of to landfill, but properly managed.

Reduces the harmful effects caused by hazardous materials in WEEE on health and the environment



as WEEE is treated in an environmentally sound manner; this helps in the conservation of natural resources, such as plastics, glass and metals in WEEE are recovered for reuse.

Who is WEEE Ireland?

WEEE Ireland is an approved compliance scheme for WEEE. WEEE Ireland is a not for profit company established by producers of electronic equipment in the Irish market place. Set up August 2005 under new Irish Law in response to the EU directive on WEEE.

It's free to recycle



www.weeeireland.ie



Litter and the Law

Know your responsibilities for taking action against litter pollution

Taken from the ENFO publication "LM1 Litter Management"

Fines

Leaving or throwing litter in a public place is an offence which can be subject to an on-the-spot fine of €125 or a maximum fine of €1,500 in court. The definition of litter is quite wide and extends beyond casual



pieces of paper or cigarette ends to anything large or small which is, or is likely to become, unsightly.

A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required by the court to pay the local authority's costs and expenses in investigating the offence and bringing the prosecution.

Public Places

If you are the owner or the person responsible for a place to which the public has access you are obliged to keep the place litter free, regardless of how the litter got there. This applies to any public place which may include the precincts of a shopping centre, a school campus, a public park, a train or bus station.

Private Property

The owner or occupier of property which can be seen from a public place is obliged to keep it free of litter. Basically, any outdoor area on your property that is visible from a public place must be kept free of litter.

Litter Black Spots

Where litter has accumulated on property for whatever reason and the litter is visible from a public place, the local authority can issue a notice

to the owner or occupier requiring the prompt removal of the litter. Such a notice can also set down precautionary measures to be put in place to prevent a reoccurrence.

If a property owner or occupier fails or refuses to do everything that has been requested, the local authority has the power to do whatever is necessary itself and require the owner or occupier to pay all of the costs involved.

Illegal Dumping

The litter laws have increased the powers of local authorities to combat the problem of illegal dumping of refuse and rubbish. Where a local authority finds material that is illegally dumped and establishes the identity of the owner of the material, that person will have a case to answer without necessarily having to be caught in the act.

Extra powers are also available to local authorities to require a householder or business operator to indicate how and where they are disposing of their waste. This is particularly relevant if the householder or business owner is not availing of a refuse collection service or bringing their waste to an authorised disposal facility.

If you see someone dumping illegally, report the matter to your local authority who will investigate and take any necessary enforcement action.

Major Events

The promoters or organisers of major events are required to ensure that they have litter control measures in place at the venue and in the surrounding vicinity before, during and after the event. This applies to football matches and other social and sporting events at which large crowds attend. It is possible that this task can be

undertaken by the local authority but the promoter/organiser must bear the costs involved.

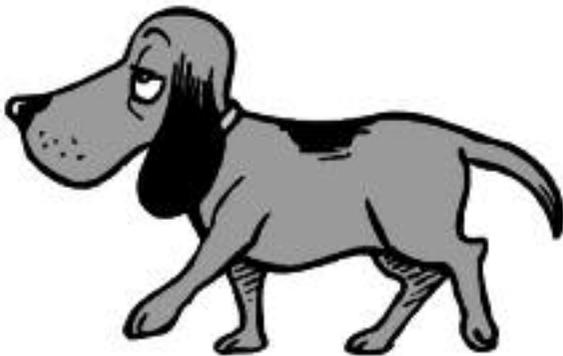
MOBILE FOOD OUTLETS

Operators of mobile food outlets selling fast food or beverages, or other outlets such as those selling farm produce are obliged to provide suitable litter bins in the vicinity of their outlets. Also, they must clean-up any litter arising from the operation of their outlets within a radius of 100 metres from their outlet.

Dog Fouling

Dog owners must now remove their pets' waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner. This obligation applies to the following places:

- public roads and footpaths
- areas around shopping centres
- school/sports grounds
- beaches
- the immediate area surrounding another person's house.



Posters and Signs

The law forbids the putting up of posters/signs on poles or on other structures in public places unless

you have the written permission of the owner of the pole or other structure in advance of putting up the posters/signs.

Advertising Flyers

The placing of advertising leaflets on car windscreens is prohibited and if you are proposing to distribute advertising leaflets in the street, you should first check with the local authority to see if they have introduced any local litter restrictions, which they are entitled to do.

Presenting your Refuse for Collection

Taking a few small precautions in the way you present your refuse for collection will help enormously in preventing the creation of litter. If you are not already using a wheelie-bin or ordinary refuse bin, you should use strong plastic bags and avoid using lightweight supermarket type bags. You should put out refuse for collection on the morning of the collection and not on the day or night before. The longer it is left out for collection the more likely it is to attract the unwanted attention of dogs, cats and birds.

It is an offence to dispose of your household refuse in street litter bins.

Who enforces the litter laws?

Local authorities are responsible for implementing the litter laws in their own areas. This means they are responsible for the prevention and control of litter and they have the power to take enforcement action against individuals who break or ignore these laws. Gardai also have the power to issue on the spot fines for litter offences.

An Taisce environmental awareness initiatives



GREEN-SCHOOLS

Green-Schools is an International environmental education programme that aims to acknowledge and encourage whole school action for the environment. Green-Schools offers a well-defined, controllable way to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of a school. Pupils identify environmental problems they are responsible for and try to find ways to solve them. Green-Schools is both a programme and an award scheme. The programme can be adopted by any school using the guidelines given in the handbook. The award will be given to schools that complete the seven steps of the programme:

1. Green-Schools Committee.
2. Environmental Review.
3. Action Plan.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation.
5. Curriculum Work.
6. Informing and involving the Wider Community.
7. Green-Code.

There are currently 42 countries globally operating the programme, with approximately 20,000 schools registered and working towards achieving the prestigious Green Flag. In Ireland nearly 3,105 schools, or about 65% of schools, are registered as Green-Schools: of these, 1,462 schools have been awarded the coveted green flag. Initially schools concentrate on the themes of Litter and Waste. Many Green Flag schools have reached an advanced stage in addressing these problems and have now moved on to the themes of energy or water. The Green-Schools campaign is now in its eleventh year in Ireland. The new theme of Travel is currently being run in 300 schools in the country and is funded by the DTO.

Green-Schools is operated in Ireland in partnership with local authorities. All 34 local authorities participate in the scheme. Green-Schools is kindly sponsored by Repak, Coca-Cola Bottlers Ltd and The Wrigley Co. Ltd. If you would like your school to get involved in Green-Schools, or if you would like more information about the programme, please contact:

**Cathy Baxter, Greens-Schools Manager,
Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce,
Unit 5A Swift's Alley, Francis Street,
Dublin 8.**

Tel: 01-4002216 Fax: 01-4002285

E-mail: greenschools@antaisce.org

Website: www.greenschoolsireland.org



THE INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG CAMPAIGN

The Blue Flag Programme is one of the most widely known, most recognised and valued ecolabels throughout Europe and beyond. It is awarded to beaches and marinas with excellent environmental management.

The Programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote good environmental behaviour among tourists and local populations and best practice among beach and marina management and staff. The criteria are designed to work with the legislation of each country. This ensures that the legislation is being followed or, in some cases, the Blue Flag sets a higher benchmark than that which already exists.

In 2008 the International Jury awarded the Blue Flag to over 3200 beaches and marinas in 37 countries across Europe, South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, New Zealand, Canada and the Caribbean. The Programme is now in its 21st year in Ireland, in 2008 78 Blue Flags Beaches and 2 Blue Flag Marina's achieved the standards set out in the Blue Flag criteria.

The award for the International Blue Flag is based on 29 criteria for beaches and 22 criteria for marinas, covering four themes:

- Environmental information and education
- Water quality
- Safety and services
- Environmental management

The Blue Flag season for beaches in Ireland coincides with the bathing season which runs from the beginning of June to the end of August. The marina season extends until December.

Each year the authority managing the beach or marina applies for the Blue Flag award, it is not automatically renewed every year. An International Jury then decides whether the beach is eligible for the award. During the season inspectors assess every Blue Flag beach and marina to ensure compliance with criteria. If there are problems they are reported to the authorities and either the problems are rectified or the Blue Flag is removed. The public also has an important part to play in seeing that a beach keeps its Blue Flag. Litter, uncontrolled dogs, dog fouling, trampling on dunes, vandalism to facilities are all things that can cost a beach its flag. If you would like more information on a Blue Flag beach or marina, or would like further information please contact An Taisce's Blue Flag Manager.

**Jimmy McVeigh, Blue Flag Manager,
Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce,
5A Swifts Alley, Francis Street,
Dublin 8.**

Telephone +353 1 4002210,

Fax +353 1 4002285

Website: www.blueflagireland.org.



**AN GRADAM
COSTA GLAS**



CLEAN COAST PROGRAMME

The Clean Coast programme was established to improve the environment of the Welsh and Irish coasts, and to restore the aesthetic appeal and increase the amenity and economic value to the community and visitors. The award that a beach can receive within the programme is called the Green Coast Award. The Green Coast Award is a symbol of excellence. It acknowledges beaches which meet EU Guideline bathing water quality standards, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoiled environment.

Following a pilot scheme between Keep Wales Tidy and Wexford County Council, the Clean Coast Programme has been extended nationwide and a partnership established between An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland and Tidy Northern Ireland to expand the programme to the entire island of Ireland. The programme is financed in Ireland by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Fáilte Ireland and Coca-Cola and is supported at a local level by Local Authorities nationwide.

The programme is largely focused on the establishment of local, community, voluntary Coastcare groups who 'adopt' and manage stretches of coastline. The programme is open to all and anyone wishing to get involved will be welcome. The Clean Coast programme aims to establish, support and promote community group action, with a focus on the protection of the environment of rural beaches. The programme aims to establish and support community groups called 'Coastcare' groups. These groups act as voluntary wardens and constantly 'monitor' their adopted stretch of coastline.

The groups come up with all the ideas, write the management plans and undertake projects when and where they want to. To encourage sustainability of Coastcare groups, financial support may be available through limited grants to groups. This will assist groups to purchase their own equipment, e.g. gloves, tools, skip hire, etc. The main aim of

Coastcare is to establish a sense of ownership within the local community, where each group will become self-supporting. Possible projects on adopted beaches could include litter-picks, habitat improvements, awareness raising, litter surveys, path drainage, access work, etc. The project is open to everyone. Anybody who wants to get involved can in some way or another.

For more information contact the project officer:

**Aidan Gray, Clean Coast Campaign Officer,
Environmental Education Unit,
An Taisce,
Unit 5A Swift's Alley, Francis Street,
Dublin 8.**

Tel: 01-4002221

Fax: 01-4002285

**E-mail: gcawards@eircom.net /
cleancoast1@antaisce.org**

Website: www.cleancoastireland.org



Green Home is a new environmental programme which is being developed and run by the Environmental Education Unit in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and funded under their National Waste

Prevention Programme.

Green Home is designed for householders to use within their own homes. The programme aims to support and direct householders into taking actions that reduce their impact on the environment. Any individual can visit the website www.greenhome.ie and become a member of Green Home. As members they can access up to date environmental information, download action plans and learn some simple tips on how to reduce waste production, fuel consumption and conserve water; enabling them to save money on household bills in the process. In addition householders and learn about more sustainable modes of transport. The

higher ideal is that Green Home participants will all contribute in a very positive way towards helping to reduce our carbon emissions.

The programme is free of charge and it is envisaged that participation in the programme will contribute towards building a stronger sense of community. Since the first pilot phase of the programme in November 2006, over 9,000 families in various different communities around Ireland have been given the opportunity to participate. To get involved in the Greenhome programme log on to www.Greenhome.ie

For further details on the Programme and how you can get involved contact:

**Dorothy Stewart, An Taisce Education Unit,
5A Swift's Alley, Francis Street,
Dublin 8**

Tel: 01 4002285

Fax: 01 4002285

Email: dstewart@eeu.antaisce.org

Website: www.greenhome.ie



Green Communities

Green Communities is a brand new environmental programme

aimed at enhancing local biodiversity and positively effect climate change at a local level. An Taisce will work with new and existing volunteer groups to look at how their activities can be focused to improve habitats and wildlife in their local areas and how they can minimise their carbon output. Groups will be asked to make a habitat survey of their own locality and then carry out some suggested action. An Taisce will provide information, training and grants to aid in these activities.

The programme is being operated in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy in Wales and is funded by EU INTERREG IV.

If you live in Meath, Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford or Wexford, and you would like to take part in the programme please contact:

**Emlyn Cullen, Green Communities,
An Taisce Education Unit,
5a Swifts Alley, Francis St., Dublin 8**

Tel: 01 4002202

Fax: 01 4002285

Email: ecullen@eeu.antaisce.org

ibal
Irish Business
Against Litter



Irish Business Against Litter

The Environmental
Education Unit of An Taisce
has been commissioned by

the **Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL)**
group to carry out a series of Litter Surveys in the
Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

Irish Business Against Litter is an alliance of
companies sharing a belief that continued economic
prosperity – notably in the areas of tourism, food and
direct foreign investment – is contingent on a clean,
litter-free environment and that enforcement of litter
laws, as opposed to public awareness campaigns,
is the most effective means of ensuring this in our
towns and cities.

The surveys take place in April, July and October
each year, with Howth emerging as the overall
winner in 2008. IBAL have again commissioned An
Taisce to run the anti-litter league in 2009.

For further information on the Anti-Litter League
please contact:

**Emlyn Cullen, An Taisce Education Unit,
5A Swift's Alley, Francis Street,
Dublin 8.**

Tel: 01 400 2202

Fax: 01 400225



Young Reporters for the Environment

Young Reporters for the
Environment (YRE) is a
European-wide environmental
education programme developed for **secondary**
schools by the Foundation for Environmental
Education.

Students can work as an entire class or as a small
team to undertake a project on the environment. The
projects must relate to one of the following themes:

- Agriculture • Coastline • Waste
- Cities • Energy • Water

With a national project, the students carry out a
journalistic enquiry on a local environmental problem
and become directly involved with the bodies or the
individuals concerned. They then inform the regional
public of their findings via the local media. This can
be done through television, radio, newspapers or
exhibitions.

The YRE project provides invaluable experience for
students as they come into direct contact with the
key players in their community. As well as activating
an interest in the local environment, it improves their
communication and journalistic skills and
encourages team-work among the class.

For further information about Young Reporters for the
Environment, contact:

**YRE Manager, Environmental
Education Unit,
An Taisce, Unit 5A Swift's Alley,
Francis Street, Dublin 8.**

Tel: 01-400 2202 Fax: 01-4002285

E-mail: yre@antaisce.org

Website:

www.antaisce.org/projects/youngrep.htm



Learning about Forests

Learning about Forests is an international programme that aims to encourage schools, classes and teachers to use forests for educational activities. The programme works as an internet-based network between participating countries. Over ten countries across Europe are currently actively involved.

In Ireland the programme was piloted during the 2001-2002 school year in order to assess the possibilities and feasibility of the LEAF programme in an Irish educational context.

Check out the international Learning About Forests website at <http://www.learningaboutforests.org>

For further information on Learning About Forests, contact:

**LEAF Manager Environmental Education
Unit, An Taisce,
5A Swift's Alley, Francis Street,
Dublin 8.**

Tel: 01 400 2202

Fax: 01 4002285

E-mail: education@antaisce.org



FEE

The European Blue Flag Campaign, Green-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment and Learning about Forests are initiatives of FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education) and are carried out by the member organisations of FEE in Europe. An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is the Irish member of FEE. Patricia Oliver is the co-ordinator of all FEE projects in Ireland. Visit the Projects Section of An Taisce's website; www.antaisce.org/projects. Get the European perspective on the FEE initiatives at the FEE website: www.fee-international.org

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland

Working for Ireland's Future

We are Ireland's oldest and largest independent, wide-ranging environmental organisation with 27 voluntary associations throughout Ireland. In recent years Ireland's environment has come under serious threat from a lethal mixture of unprecedented economic growth, inadequate protection, and a lack of planning vision. The stakes are high. For generations to come we will be living with the legacy of the National Development Plan which between now and 2013, will change the face of Ireland. Without active intervention now, this legacy will be one of shoddiness – of sprawling housing estates, overdeveloped coastlines, inadequate public transportation, squalid town and city centres, and lost natural habitats.

Quality of Life

An Taisce is working for a better quality of life for everyone in Ireland, now and for the future. Our interest is the public interest. Join us in getting better planning for the places where we work, rest and play – and for proper transport.

A Future for our History

An Taisce makes over 2000 submissions a year on planning matters. Much of this work is hard and unfashionable, but of vital importance. History is vindicating our independent and long-term stance on planning issues – just take for example Dublin's Temple Bar, whose rejuvenation was first promoted by us.

We hold, in trust for the people of Ireland, 13 of the most important properties in the country including Mongan Bog, County Offaly; Kanturk Castle, County Cork; and 6,500 acres of mountainous terrain at Crocnafarragh, County Donegal.

Through programmes such as Green-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, LEAF (Learning about Forests), Blue Flag for Beaches and Marinas, Green Home and the Clean Coast initiative we, in partnership with government and business, are building the foundations of an environmentally aware and sensitive nation.

SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 3,000 schools take part in our Green Schools programme.
- More than 400,000 people participate in the National Spring Clean annually.
- An Taisce was central in saving Temple Bar and much of Georgian Dublin from demolition.
- We advocated LUAS before it was fashionable.
- We initiated opposition to the burning of bituminous coal in our cities.
- An Taisce was central to opposition to nuclear power at Carnsore Point and to the coal-burning power station at Moneypoint – which now has to be closed down to meet Ireland's CO₂ emissions targets as defined by the Kyoto agreement.
- We consistently opposed the interpretative centres at Luggala and the Burren

Membership Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Mobile _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY – MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION RATES – PLEASE TICK

- Individual €45 Family €55 Retired or unwaged €20
- Student €10 Benefactor (Life) €600 Groups €60
- Corporate (min) €250

Payment Method: Cheque Cash Direct Debit

Please return your completed form to:

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland, Tailor’s Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8

Instruction to your Bank to pay Direct Debits

Please complete Parts 1 to 4 to instruct your Bank to make payments directly from your account. Then return the form to: An Taisce, The National Trust for Ireland, Tailor’s Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8
 An Taisce’s identification number: **3 0 1 5 6 0**

Your membership Number: _____

1. Please write the name and full postal address of your bank and branch:

2. Name of Account Holder: _____

3. Branch Sort Code Account Number

Banks may refuse to accept instructions to pay Direct Debits from some types of account.

4. Your instructions to the bank and signature

I instruct you to pay Direct Debits from my account at the request of An Taisce.

- The amounts are variable and are to be debited on or just after the 1st day of _____ annually.
- I understand that An Taisce may change the amount and dates only after giving me prior notice.
- I will inform the bank in writing if I wish to cancel this instruction.
- I understand that if any Direct Debit is paid which breaks the terms of this instruction, the Bank will make a refund.
- Please cancel all previous standing order/direct debit instructions in favour of An Taisce.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



please cut along the dotted line

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