What Actions Can I Take?

As an Individual

1. Stop using chemicals in the home and garden. Choose eco-friendly options.
2. Support nature by reducing mowing, allowing native wildflowers to grow and protecting hedgerows and soil. **Gardening for Biodiversity.**
3. Support, volunteer and take part in local biodiversity initiatives and citizen science projects such as **Explore Your Shore, Actions for Pollinators** and Ireland's **Citizen Science Portal.**
4. Demand better commitment, action, compliance and management from government by talking to your local Councillors.

How this helps

- ✔ Protects life and prevents pollution of our natural environments and waterways.
- ✔ Protects habitats and provides essential shelter and food for wildlife, birds, insects and soil life.
- ✔ Contributes to shared efforts to protect local environments and helps build knowledge.
- ✔ Ensures targets and obligations are met to reduce further loss of our biodiversity.

As a Community

1. Develop a **pollinator plan** and help to create a network of biodiversity trails and wildlife corridors in your community and local environment.
2. Advocate and educate about biodiversity through awareness campaigns (signs/ posters), workshops and public events (e.g., native tree planting and seed sowing, gardening for nature, going organic).
3. Apply for biodiversity funding and **grant supports** from local government, development organisations and private businesses and avail of **community toolkit** resources.

How this helps

- ✔ Increases biodiversity by protecting pollinators and connecting habitats, which provides access to food and shelter for wildlife, birds and insects.
- ✔ Ensures everyone in the community understands the importance of biodiversity protection and can play their role.
- ✔ Provides your community with the resources needed to take action!

What Actions Can I Take?

As a Business/ Social Enterprise

1. Create a Biodiversity Action Plan for your business.
2. Engage employees through awareness building, training and projects to protect biodiversity.
3. Link with and support local community biodiversity initiatives in your area, such as **Eco Inishowen** in Donegal.
4. Review company policies and procedures regarding the environmental impact of your business.

How this helps

- ✔ Contributes to corporate environmental and social responsibility.
- ✔ Educates and actively motivates staff to take action at home and in the workplace.
- ✔ Builds positive relationships with and strengthens local community efforts to protect biodiversity.
- ✔ Ensures you are not causing environmental harms with your business and operations.

All information updated May 2024

Be part of the Sustainability Story in your community

Visit our website to get inspiration and see what others have done. Find out how you can participate, avail of mentoring and share your story.

We offer a free mentoring service to groups, businesses, and social enterprises.

Jot down some ideas...

Route 4 -
Biodiversity and Gardening

1 NO POVERTY · 2 ZERO HUNGER · 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING · 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION · 13 CLIMATE ACTION · 14 LIFE BELOW WATER · 15 LIFE ON LAND

What is it?

1

Biodiversity is the variety of life that can be found on Earth (plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms) and their interconnections. Greater species diversity ensures all life forms can exist.

2

It provides us with what we need to survive, such as healthy food, clean water and air and ensures important natural balance and stability for our society.

3

It is protected under Irish law and several EU Environmental Regulations and Directives which Ireland must uphold and respect.

4

As natural habitats increasingly come under threat in our landscape (from industry, pollution and climate change) our gardens and green spaces provide important protective safe havens for native plant and animal species.

To find out more about the Sustainable Development Goals linked to Biodiversity and Gardening visit the United Nations website.
sdgs.un.org

Did You Know?

85% of Ireland's EU protected habitats are in unfavourable status, with almost half (46%) demonstrating ongoing declines. Failure to protect our most endangered natural habitats and species will result in substantial EU fines **(Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030).**

A fifth of assessed species are threatened with extinction, including many of our most iconic species such as the Curlew, Corncrake and Atlantic Salmo **(National Biodiversity Data Centre).**

Just one-third of our hedgerows are deemed in good condition for birds and other wildlife **(National Biodiversity Data Centre).**

We have one of the worst records for responding to climate change in the EU - ranked among the worst in Europe in terms of climate action **(Climate Change Performance Index).**

Follow the link to register and gain access to resources and information about the programme.

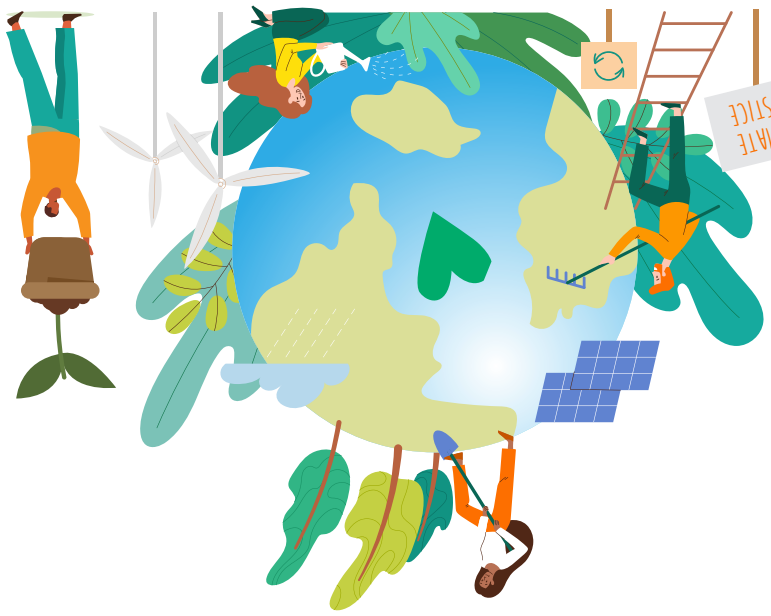
www.changemakers.ie/sp

Change Makers

Sustainability Passport

A Guide to a more sustainable life

IDP Ireland Development Partnership
Irish Aid Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland
CONCERN worldwide
Trócaire TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD
Self Help Africa
eth Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology



Route 4:
Biodiversity & Gardening

Embark on your Sustainability Passport journey today.

Open to Individuals, Communities, Businesses and Social Enterprises.

Sustainability Passport

A Guide to a more sustainable life