**All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: Local Authority Pollinator Award 2018**

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**About the Award - €9,000 prize money for 8 communities across Ireland**

The Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage TidyTowns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the TidyTowns competition. Irish bees, crucial in the pollination of our plants, trees and vegetables, are in decline. This is because we’ve drastically reduced the areas where they can nest and the amount of food our countryside provides for them. The aim of the award is to reverse this trend by encouraging TidyTowns groups to take simple pollinator-friendly measures in their local area. The Local Authority Pollinator Award supports the [*All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020*](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)and is sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland. There are two award categories:

1. Village or Small Town
2. Large Town or Urban Centre

A prize of €1,000 will be awarded to the four Regional winners in each of the two categories. Out of these eight regional winners, one overall national winner will receive an additional €1,000. Awards will be given to all categories subject to satisfactory criteria.

For more details see [www.TidyTowns.ie](http://www.TidyTowns.ie) or www.pollinators.ie

**What types of activities are we looking for?**

Local communities can lead the way in driving a better and more sustainable balance for pollinators, and bringing more natural, flower-rich pockets back into our landscape. A guidance document for local communities is available on the Pollinator Plan website that outlines 24 actions you can take to help pollinators in your local community. See [www.pollinators.ie/Resources](http://www.pollinators.ie/Resources) to download a copy of our ‘Local Communities: Actions to help Pollinators’ guidance document.

These actions are not costly, and all are very clearly explained. They range from changing your mowing regime in certain areas, to planting pollinator friendly trees and shrubs, drilling holes in wooden fencing for solitary bees to nest and raising awareness by promoting the junior All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to youth groups and schools in your community. Lots of possible actions are suggested, enabling local groups to identify those that are most appropriate for their own area. The more of these actions you can take the more pollinator friendly your local area can become. **We particularly encourage a whole-town approach, rather than isolated projects – as it’s more effective for the pollinators.**

**How to Enter**

1. Please fill out the attached application form to let us know in **no more than** **2000 words** how your community is implementing pollinator friendly programmes and projects.
2. Only ONE application will be accepted per group, and applications must come from an official Tidy Towns group (as agreed with the National Tidy Town Unit).
3. Your application should refer to the suggested actions in the guidance document, **Local Communities: Actions to help pollinators,** whichcan be downloaded from the Pollinator Plan website [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)
4. Email your entry to pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie, with “Pollinator Award” in the subject line. Your entry must consist of a **single file** less than 5MB in size (please reduce the size of any photographs and then embed photographs into the application form).
5. Read and tick the Data Protection paragraph below.

**Closing Date: May 23rd, 2018**

**Judging the Award**

All entries will be assessed by a panel of suitably qualified judges including Local Authority Heritage Officers & Biodiversity Officers, and National Biodiversity Data Centre staff.

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**ENTRY FORM**

**Name of Tidy Towns Group and County:**  ...............................................................................................

**Nominated contact in Tidy Towns Group**: ..............................................................................................

**Postal Address**: .......................................................................................................................................

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**Phone number**: ................................................. **Email**:........................................................................

**Data Protection**

I confirm that my contact details as above may be used in communications relating to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan Local Authority Award. Any personal information which I provide in this way is not made available to any third parties, save as required by law, and is used by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Local Authority Heritage Officers/Biodiversity Officers only in line with the purpose for which I provided it. Any personal information which I provide will be treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

**Please tick your consent to process your data for this application**

 **All Ireland Pollinator Plan: Local Authority Pollinator Award 2018 Application Form**

**Please fill in you submission below by briefly answering the following questions:**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

* **Points are allocated for each question on this application form. All questions must be filled out, using this form only.**
* Submissions must not exceed **2000 words**
* Please support your application with photographs - to help demonstrate your work (Embed photos in application form. Max. File size is 5MB).
* Please support your application with a map of your town/village marking the locations of your pollinator-friendly actions.
* You **may** use bullet points to answer the questions below.
* This application form refers to work undertaken from May 2017-May 2018.

**1. How did you identify and protect existing areas in your community that were ALREADY good for pollinators?**

**2. Provide details of the changes that you made to your mowing regime to help pollinators.** Please provide details of locations, size of areas etc. and mark the areas on your map)

**3. Provide details of any pollinator-friendly planting that you provided.** Please provide the names of all pollinator-friendly plants used, and mark these areas on your map.

**4. Provide details of nesting habitats that you provided for wild pollinators,** and mark these areas on your map. Please refer to our ‘How to guide: Creating wild pollinator nesting habitat’ at www.pollinators.ie/Resources

**5. Provide details of how you reduced the use of pesticides.**

**6. Provide details of how you raised public awareness of pollinators in your local area**

**7. Are you measuring the impact of your work?**

 **7a**. Have you added your pollinator sites to the online mapping system called ‘Actions for Pollinators’? This site allows us to track the build-up of food and shelter for pollinators across the island (see <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>)

 Yes ☐ No ☐

 **7b.** Are you taking part in the National Biodiversity Data Centre’s Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme? (see <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/>).

 Yes ☐ No ☐

 **7c.** Any other ways that you are measuring the impact of your pollinator work

**8. What are your next THREE priorities or future projects for pollinators for the coming year?**

**If your group uses social media please include links to Facebook pages or Twitter handles.**

TidyTowns Terms and Conditions apply.