



**SuperValu**   
**Tidy Towns**  
*Caring for our environment*

**Information Booklet  
 2026**



## Dear TidyTowns Volunteers,

Dear TidyTowns Volunteers/Oibríthe Deonacha Bailte Slachtmhara, Fáilte chuig comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu. Welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

I am delighted to launch the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition, now in its 68th year. The competition was first established in 1958 and has grown to become one of the most recognised sustainable, environmental and community initiatives in the country.

In 2025, a record 929 towns and villages entered the competition. It was a real honour for me to meet so many of you at the National Awards Ceremony and at other events in my first year as Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

TidyTowns is a unique community movement. It is not just about winning – it is about improving standards year on year, making our towns and villages more attractive, more vibrant and more sustainable places to live, work and visit.

The SuperValu TidyTowns competition continues to thrive each year and that is in no small part due to the dedication of you, the TidyTowns volunteers.

TidyTowns led projects have greatly improved our local environment – from our public spaces and green areas to our streets, roads, laneways and walkways. I continue to see evidence of this every week as I travel across the country, visiting towns and villages which are instantly recognisable as having a dedicated TidyTowns committee, and none more so than in my own county of Mayo.

As Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, I have continued the Department's strong support for TidyTowns groups. Since my Department was established in 2017, over €12.6 million in grant funding has been provided to assist TidyTowns groups in their endeavours.

TidyTowns groups have been vital in supporting and enhancing the government's objective to ensure towns are sustainable and thriving hubs of commercial and social activity as set out in the Programme for Government, national Rural Development Policy and the Town Centre First policy.

TidyTowns groups continue to embrace the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan as well as incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals into projects and works completed. This is encouraging in terms of ensuring sustainability and biodiversity is central to our efforts.

The Special Awards attached to the competition also bring an extra dimension for groups and are an additional way in which to highlight the wonderful projects and initiatives being worked on by TidyTowns groups nationwide. We are delighted to welcome back many of our Special Awards sponsors as well as welcoming some new additions to the TidyTowns family. I wholly encourage groups to consider entering some of these Special Award categories, and the extended closing date provides welcome extra time to complete the applications.

Over 30,000 volunteers give up their time, all year round, to come together to make our communities cleaner, greener and more vibrant locations for us all to enjoy. I also recognise the valuable support given to our TidyTowns groups by local authorities, local businesses and other community groups.

I would like to say a special thank you to our national sponsor, SuperValu, now in their 36th year of sponsoring the competition. SuperValu have been fantastic partners on this journey, and I look forward continuing this partnership for years to come.

Finally, I would like to commend last year's winner, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, deserving winners of Ireland's Tidiest Town 2025.

Guím gach rath oraibh go léir i gcomórtas 2026. Táim ag súil le hiontrálacha áille na mbailte agus na sráidbailte a fheiceáil agus bualadh libh ag an searmanas bronnta níos déanaí i mbliana.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

**Dara Calleary TD**

Minister for Rural and Community Development



## Dear TidyTowns Volunteers,

Welcome to another year of SuperValu TidyTowns and thank you for choosing to be part of it. Whether you've been involved for years or you're joining your local committee for the first time, we're delighted to have you on board. Your decision to give your time, energy and ideas is what brings this competition to life throughout Ireland. That commitment shapes and enhances everyday life in our local communities, through more vibrant shared spaces, stronger local pride and places that are more welcoming for everyone.

As SuperValu TidyTowns marks its 36th year, the competition continues to thrive at scale. In 2025, over 30,000 volunteers from 929 committees contributed more than one million volunteer hours. Behind those numbers are countless practical actions – trees planted, streets cleaned, murals painted – that help revitalise towns and villages and make them better places to live, work and visit. Together, these efforts have grown into one of Europe's largest community-led sustainability initiatives, which we are incredibly proud to support.

That local action is supported by people and businesses who are rooted in communities themselves. For decades, many of our local SuperValu retailers have played a central role in keeping SuperValu TidyTowns moving in their areas. I would like to thank our retailers for the ongoing support and guidance they provide to local committees, which makes a tangible difference on the ground.

My warmest congratulations go to Carrick-on-Shannon, overall winners of the 2025 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Their achievement is a testament to years of dedication and a wonderful example of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared vision for their town. Carrick-on-Shannon's success is an inspiration to other committees as you prepare for the year ahead.

I would also like to thank Minister Calleary and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, whose leadership and support play a key role in sustaining the great work of committees nationwide. Together, our partnership helps ensure the competition can continue to evolve and deliver real impact year after year.

Looking ahead, sustainability remains at the heart of SuperValu TidyTowns. From enhancing biodiversity and reducing waste to supporting climate action at a local level, your projects are helping to future-proof towns and villages for generations to come. Every initiative, no matter how small, helps to build stronger, more resilient and thriving communities.

New voices are also shaping the future of SuperValu TidyTowns, with students now making up 11% of participants, a quarter of volunteers under the age of 45, and 15% born outside of Ireland. The competition brings together people from all walks of life, reflecting the diversity of modern Ireland.

This evolving mix ultimately strengthens what SuperValu TidyTowns is about, creating places that feel inclusive and shared by everyone who lives there.

For more than three decades, SuperValu TidyTowns has remained relevant because it evolves with the places it supports. While the challenges facing Irish communities have changed over time, the collective responsibility to care for shared spaces and strengthen local identity remains. What you do each year helps ensure that our towns and villages remain vibrant and resilient for the long term.

As the days grow longer and activity gathers pace, there is real momentum in the work taking place across the country. The joy and pride that come from participation are often among the most lasting outcomes of SuperValu TidyTowns. I hope you feel proud of the difference you continue to make locally and of the positive impact your efforts create each year. On behalf of everyone at SuperValu and our retail partners, thank you for your passion, creativity and dedication, and I look forward to seeing the inspiring projects you bring to life in 2026.

Go n-éirí go geal libh.

*Luke Hanlon*

**Luke Hanlon**

Managing Director of SuperValu



## Welcome...

Welcome to the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. This booklet will provide all the information you need in order to complete and submit your entry for the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. In addition you will find all the terms and conditions applicable to the competition. The booklet also contains information on each of the special awards attached to the 2026 competition. Further information including sample maps, map graph paper and the new SuperValu TidyTowns Handbook can be found by visiting [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie).

## How To Complete Your 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form

The editable Word version of the entry form can be found at [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie). Please download the 2026 Entry form.

Please ensure you read this booklet before completing the entry form. The following link contains useful information on how to complete your submission to the 2026 competition – <https://tidytowns.ie/resources/videos-webinars/>

Please ensure you have included clear and concise content for all 8 categories.

Be mindful of the volume of material you submit – adjudicators have limited time to review your work during adjudication.

Please note, the inclusion of a map is mandatory. All maps should have a map legend and have notable landmarks highlighted in addition to your 2025 projects. Hand drawn maps are acceptable.

Please identify each project as New (N) or Maintenance (M) on your Entry Form under the correct category and on your map legend. If you have no new work in any adjudication category, just state 'no new work this year'. Late Entries or additional material sent after the closing date will not be accepted.

### How to Register your Entry for the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition

**PLEASE NOTE – ALL GROUPS CAN NOW REGISTER THEIR ENTRY AND UPLOAD COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS THROUGH OUR ONLINE PORTAL – <https://competition.tidytowns.ie/>**

We have provided all groups with a FAQ document on how to register your entry for the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. The FAQ document is also available on our website.

When registering your entry, log into <https://competition.tidytowns.ie/> – you will first register your groups details. You will then be prompted to upload your completed application form and map. Please note, the inclusion of a map is mandatory.

You may also upload additional information such your 3–5 year plan and additional documentation such as photographs. We recommend you save your photographs in a word or pdf document before uploading.

You will then be prompted to agree to the terms and conditions. Once you agree to these conditions, and submit your entry, a message will be displayed on screen verifying your registration.

**This website <https://competition.tidytowns.ie/> will be updated regularly with registered entries.**

Closing date:

**Monday  
11th May 2026**

**Completed entries should be registered online at:  
[www.competition.tidytowns.ie/](http://www.competition.tidytowns.ie/) by Monday 11th May 2026**

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover the three dimensions of sustainable development; economic growth, social inclusion and the protection of the environment. There are 17 SDGs. Throughout the entry form you will see where many of the goals are aligned to the different TidyTowns categories. Please identify, if applicable, under each category where your projects or initiatives aim to address one or more of the sustainable goals.

The TidyTowns competition has links to many of the goals and we would welcome any attempt made by TidyTowns committees to highlight these goals and raise awareness of them in your community. Further information on the SDG's can be found by visiting <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/ff4201-17-sustainable-development-goals/>

## Terms & Conditions

1. These terms and conditions together with any guidelines set out in the SuperValu TidyTowns Handbook or the SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form are the competition rules (“the Rules”). By entering the competition, entrants agree to be bound by the Rules.
2. The SuperValu TidyTowns Competition (“the Competition”) is organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (“the Department”). In the event of any dispute the decision of the Department will be final.
3. The Department has no role in how groups are established or run. It is not responsible for any legal action taken or projects undertaken by groups entering the competition. The Department manages the official Department and TidyTowns social media pages only – it is not responsible for content on individual TidyTowns pages.
4. The Department reserves the right not to accept entry to the Competition if it is deemed to be in contravention of the terms and conditions outlined in this booklet and entry form.
5. To enter the Competition, the entrant must be a body entering on behalf of a town, village, island or stand-alone area (“town”) and should be working towards being broadly representative of all sectors residing or working in the town.
6. Only one entrant per town is allowed. Where a town has more than one entrant, the Department will, at its absolute discretion, select one to participate in the Competition.
7. Competition entries should be made in the manner, and by the closing date, specified. Late entries will not be accepted. Please keep supporting documentation as concise as possible as the Adjudicators have a limited time to review all material, therefore only material relevant to the projects for consideration should be provided.
8. Entries should be registered online at <https://competition.tidytowns.ie/> on or before the closing date and should not exceed **20MB**.
9. Once you register your entry at <https://competition.tidytowns.ie/>, a message will be displayed confirming your entry. A list of registered entries will be updated regularly on <https://competition.tidytowns.ie/>. If one week after the closing date your entry is not listed; please contact the TidyTowns Unit on **01 7736988/01 5391105**.
10. An acknowledgement email will issue from the Department’s TidyTowns email address to all correspondence received in respect of 2026 entries. A list will be updated regularly on the TidyTowns website listing all entries that have been registered for the 2026 competition. All entrants must visit [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) to ensure their entry has been received and registered. If one week after the closing date, your entry is not listed; please contact the TidyTowns unit on 01 7736988, failure to do so may result in your entry not being registered for the 2026 competition.
11. Marks are awarded for the quality of your entry form. The form should be concise and should clearly reference all works undertaken since 10th May 2025. With regard to your new or maintenance projects, identification and location details are important. Accordingly please ensure that;  
  
The location of each separate project is marked on the map where this is appropriate. Obviously, this requirement may not apply to some items – for example survey work.  
  
Provide a brief description of the project with appropriate details.  
  
Indicate when the work started and when it finished, or the proposed completion date for on-going or long-term projects.

12. **A good town or village map is essential to your entry.** A hand-drawn map is perfectly acceptable if a formal printed map is not available or suitable. The map should be of a manageable size, A4 or A3 depending on the layout of your town or village. On the map please name all streets and roads as necessary and mark the key public buildings and landmarks. You are advised not to use Google mapping as this is often unclear/inaccurate. You may find the Ordnance Survey Ireland Urban (or Rural as applicable) 'Place' Maps most useful. A clear legend is an essential part of a map and you are recommended to include a legend on the map sheet itself. When numbering projects, your first project under Streetscape & Public Places should be numbered 1, and carry this numeric sequence into subsequent categories. Numbers should not be replicated. Failure to include an adequate map may affect marks under the Community – Your Planning and Involvement category.
13. Photographs can be of great assistance to your adjudicator. Before and after photographs are helpful, just a pair of photographs of each new project is recommended. If you are including photographs, we recommend you incorporate them into the form under the relevant category or as an appendix to the form in a WORD document, you can easily fit up to 6 photographs on an A4 page. Please remember to title each photograph so the adjudicator knows what project it refers to.
14. Prize winners will be selected by a panel of adjudicators appointed by the Department. Unless otherwise stated all prizes will be awarded to the entrant. In the event of a dispute, the decision of the Department is final.
15. The adjudicator will examine new or maintenance projects, which have been completed between 10th May 2025 and 11th May 2026 (competition closing date). Adjudication will commence in early June and run to early August.
16. Prize winners will be announced in Q4 2026 and prizes awarded on dates decided by the Department. Failure to claim a prize in the manner specified by the Department may result in the prize being withdrawn or selection of an alternate winner. The Department reserves the right to substitute/alter prizes at any time.
17. The Department cannot accept responsibility for any damage, loss, injury or disappointment suffered by any entrant entering the Competition or as a result of accepting any prize. The Department is not responsible for replacing lost/damaged prizes
18. Information supplied will only be used for the purposes of organising and promoting the Competition and related initiatives. Contact details for committees will be shared with the sponsors and the printing company to allow mailing correspondence with committees. These details will be destroyed following each mailing. All contact details from committees will be destroyed after 3 years in line with GDPR guidelines.
19. Main prizes are the prizes awarded to entrants by virtue of their overall score in the Competition, assessed under the following categories:

**Category Marking Structure**

Community – Your Planning & Involvement 80

Streetscape & Public Places 80

Green Spaces & Landscaping 80

Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality 80

Sustainability – Doing more with less 80

Tidiness & Litter Control 90

Residential Streets & Housing Areas 55

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes 55

Total 600

20. Prizes unless otherwise stated, consist of a money prize and a certificate.
21. The overall title, Ireland's Tidiest Town is awarded to the entrant with the highest score in the Competition. In addition to a money prize and certificate, the winner receives a perpetual trophy (which must be subsequently returned to the Department on request), a plaque and funding towards a day of celebration the following year. It is imperative that you enter under the correct Population Category.
22. The titles Tidiest Village, Tidiest Small Town, Tidiest Large Town and Tidiest Large Urban Centre are awarded to the entrant with the highest score in population categories A & B, C & D, E & F and G & H respectively. In addition to a money prize and certificate, the winner receives a perpetual trophy, (which must be subsequently returned to the Department on request). It is imperative that you enter under the correct population category.
23. Population categories are as follows;

Population category	Population
A	Under 200
B	201 to 1,000
C	1,001 to 2,500
D	2,501 to 5,000
E	5,001 to 10,000
F	10,001 to 15,000
G	15,001 to 25,000
H	25,001 and over

24. The Regional Awards are awarded to the first placed entrant in each of the following regions:

Region	Counties
Midlands & East	Dublin, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wicklow
North West & West	Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon
South & Mid-West	Cork (North), Cork (South), Cork (West), Kerry, Clare, Limerick
South East	Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary (North), Tipperary (South), Waterford, Wexford

25. The County Awards are awarded to the first, second and third placed entrant in each county, (Tipperary is divided into North and South, and Cork into North, South and West). The Endeavour Award is awarded to the entrant in each county that made the biggest percentage improvement on the previous year's score.
26. A Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal is awarded to an entrant with a score falling within a specified range of marks of the **overall** winner of the competition as follows;
- Gold / Silver / Bronze.**
- Population A&B within 10/within 15/within 20  
 Population C&D within 15/within 20/within 25  
 Population E&F within 20/within 25/within 35  
 Population G&H within 25/within 35/within 45
27. Other initiatives may arise from time to time and qualifying towns will be contacted by the Department as required.

## SuperValu TidyTowns – 2026 Special Awards

We are delighted to bring you our Special Awards for 2026. The following information will give you a sense of the different awards and the prize attached to each. If you encounter any difficulties accessing any of the special awards application forms, please contact the TidyTowns unit at **TidyTowns@drcdg.gov.ie** or the sponsors email provided. If you are entering one or more of the Special Awards, which are relevant to a TidyTowns category, you should also record this as a project on your 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form. Please note, these awards are not judged by the panel of TidyTowns Adjudicators.

Please refer to the TidyTowns website **www.tidytowns.ie** for more information on these awards and on the specific closing dates.

**Please note that completed entry forms for the various special awards should be emailed to the email address provided and not to the TidyTowns unit.**

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €6,000

Sponsored by  
 Department of Climate,  
 Energy and the Environment



The overall aim of the Sustainable Development Goals Award, sponsored by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, is to acknowledge the role the SDGs play in everyday life. The awards aim to raise awareness of the SDG goals and to recognise the benefits they offer locally, nationally and globally as a guide to improving quality of life. They aim to achieve decent lives for all on a healthy planet by 2030. Positive, empowering community actions are key to meeting this goal.

When submitting an entry, clearly state in the subject, the name of the TidyTowns Group, location and that it's an entry to the SDG Award 2026.

Further information is available at **www.gov.ie/sdgs** and by emailing **SDGS@dcee.gov.ie**

### GREENWAYS & ACTIVE TRAVEL AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by  
 Department of Transport



An Roinn Iompair  
 Department of Transport

The Department of Transport is delighted to sponsor two special category awards, one for Greenway projects and another for Active Travel Projects this year. The provision of walking and cycling facilities in our cities, towns and villages is critical in providing safe and accessible transport corridors connecting our urban centres for pedestrians and cyclists. This infrastructure are public assets designed for use by members of the public to undertake trips for a range of purposes – recreational, commuting, travelling to school and undertaking errands.

These routes can offer an opportunity to the local community to showcase the beauty of their local area through their stewardship endeavours. This special category primarily seeks to recognise the efforts of TidyTowns Groups in relation to integrating built infrastructure with ecological best practices as well as enriching local community assets.

For more information on Greenways and Active Travel, please contact your local authority.

## YOUNG PERSONS IN TIDYTOWNS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by Department  
of Rural and Community  
Development and the Gaeltacht



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe  
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Rural and Community  
Development and the Gaeltacht

The Young Persons Award is aimed at the 16 to 24 age group who are actively involved in projects and initiatives of their local TidyTowns group throughout the year. It is not open to schools to apply. Entries should be submitted using the Young Persons Award entry form.

Photographs can be used to support your entry. Entries under the Young Persons Award should demonstrate how TidyTowns groups actively involve young people in the 16 to 24 age group in contributing on an ongoing basis to their local TidyTowns activities, including through their membership of, or direct engagement with, the Groups. Initiatives undertaken by the group to encourage greater involvement from this age group should also be included. The award will be presented to the TidyTowns Group whose initiatives have resulted in an increase in involvement from the 16 to 24 age group, resulting in a positive outcome for the TidyTowns group and wider community and demonstrating how young people can have an active leadership role within their community.

For more details, see [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie)

## TINY TIDYTOWNS SCHOOL AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by SuperValu

**SuperValu**

SuperValu is inviting all primary schools to showcase the fantastic initiatives they are undertaking to enhance their school and classroom environments.

We all want children to discover the joy of growing their own food and to understand the importance of

protecting local biodiversity – so they can look forward to a healthier, more sustainable future.

Does your school grow its own fruit and vegetables? Have you created a rewilded space to support bees and biodiversity? Is there an area dedicated to pollinator friendly plants?

We'd love to hear about the food growing and biodiversity projects you've developed, as well as any future plans to continue enriching these themes within your classrooms. A finalist group from each of the four regions will be chosen, with each finalist group receiving €1,000. The overall winner will then receive an additional €1,000.

For more details see [www.supervalu.ie](http://www.supervalu.ie)

Entries are to be emailed to: [tidytowns@musgrave.ie](mailto:tidytowns@musgrave.ie)

Closing date : Monday 8th June 2026

## GUM LITTER TASKFORCE AWARD

PRIZE FUND €8,000

Sponsored by the Gum  
Litter Taskforce



The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) is a joint initiative between industry and government working to increase awareness of the chewing gum litter issue and to encourage positive behavioural change around gum disposal. Through the national "Bin your gum when you're done" campaign, the GLT highlights the importance of responsible disposal and supports stronger enforcement of the €150 fine.

Thanks to the continued efforts of communities nationwide, gum litter now accounts for just 7.3% of all litter nationally—the lowest figure to date—with 92% of people reporting that they dispose of their gum correctly.

The GLT would like to reward TidyTowns groups that are delivering environmental awareness initiatives aimed at eliminating chewing gum litter in their area. This award recognises communities who influence responsible behaviour and promote social responsibility for both current and future generations.

For more info, please visit [www.gumlittertaskforce.ie/](http://www.gumlittertaskforce.ie/)

## ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN - LOCAL AUTHORITY POLLINATOR AWARD

PRIZE FUND €10,000

Sponsored by Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre



Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage Tidy Towns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the Tidy Towns competition. Wild Irish bees, crucial to 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 Tidy Towns groups to take simple pollinator-friendly measures in their local area. The Local Authority Pollinator Award supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland.

A prize of €1,000 will be awarded in each of the four regions at Village/Small Town category and at Large Town/Large Urban Centre category. Out of these eight finalists, one overall national winner will receive an additional €1,000. There is also a “Best Newcomer Award” with a prize of €1,000.

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

## THE ISLAND AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,500

Sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta  
 Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

The Islands Award is awarded to the two highest scoring entrants that is an island not connected to the mainland by a bridge, is cut off daily from the mainland by the tide, is permanently inhabited and is not in private ownership.

## THE WATERS AND COMMUNITIES AWARD

PRIZE FUND €7,000

Sponsored by Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland and the Local Authority Waters Programme



The Waters and Communities Special Award aims to encourage community groups to get more involved with their local water bodies by helping to preserve, promote and fully utilise their local natural heritage. It is open to any community group who has shown an appreciation for their water environment and water heritage during 2025.

Examples of water quality initiatives include: championing biodiversity and water heritage; citizen science; promotion of angling; awareness raising events and initiatives; promotion of nature-based solutions; clean ups of local waterbodies; upgrading of amenities.

The Waters and Communities Special Award has an overall prize fund of €7,000, shared among an overall winner, regional winners and regional runners-up.

This Special Award is sponsored by:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), who are responsible for managing the inland fisheries and sea angling sectors.

Waterways Ireland, who are responsible for the management of inland navigable waterways.

Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), who work with communities to assist them in getting involved in caring for local waterbodies.

For more details see [www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie)

## CLIMATE ACTION AWARD

PRIZE FUND €6,000

Sponsored by Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment



An Roinn Aeráide,  
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil  
Department of Climate,  
Energy and the Environment

The overall aim of this award is to recognise the impact local communities can make in addressing climate change. The purpose of this award is to celebrate communities who have taken climate action, raised awareness within their communities and worked collaboratively across their communities to take climate action.

### Four prizes will be awarded:

1. €2,000 for the best entry from a village/small town (Category A to D)
2. €2,000 for the best entry from a large town or urban centre (Category E to H)
3. One overall runner-up prize of €1,000 and
4. A special Youth Award of €1,000.

Further information is available by emailing [climateawards@dcee.gov.ie](mailto:climateawards@dcee.gov.ie)

## LEAVE NO TRACE TIDYTOWNS AWARD

PRIZE : €1,000 along with a Leave No Trace trainer for one day to deliver either an Awareness course or workshop, access to online Leave No Trace Resources and promotion across social media.

Sponsored by Leave No Trace Ireland



Now in its seventh year, the Leave No Trace Tidy Towns Special Award recognises communities for their significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment and the promotion of responsibility in the outdoors. Through recognising these communities, Leave No Trace Ireland seeks to inspire other communities to take extraordinary actions to protect and promote responsible outdoor recreation. Apply today and tell us what your group has achieved.

For more information please see [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

## TOWN CENTRE FIRST AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

The Town Centre First (TCF) policy, launched in February 2021, is a cross-government policy that aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. TCF recognises that every town is unique in its challenges, needs and opportunities and lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. More information can be found on [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) – Town Centre First Policy.

The TCF Award, sponsored by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, credits exemplary efforts by towns in driving forward town centre regeneration and revitalisation in line with the policy and recognises the vital role Tidy Towns groups have in the sustainable development of their communities and the enhancement of our town centres.

For more details see [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) or [www.towncentrefirst.ie](http://www.towncentrefirst.ie)

## THE GAELTACHT AWARD

PRIZE FUND €2,500

Sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

The Gaeltacht Award is awarded to the two highest scoring entrants from a Gaeltacht area.

The main Entry Form must be completed in Irish.

## SUPERVALU INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AWARD

PRIZE FUND €2,000

Sponsored by SuperValu



At SuperValu, we believe that truly great communities are built when everyone is included.

People of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities have something valuable to contribute to making our communities better places to live, work, and play.

This award celebrates TidyTowns committees that are driving positive change by promoting and enabling inclusivity, welcoming and supporting every member of their community.

A prize of €2,000 will be awarded to the TidyTowns committee that best demonstrates how they have championed inclusion through meaningful, inclusive projects and initiatives.

Examples of these can be from one off events activities, communications or changes made to their community.

For more details, see [www.supervalu.ie](http://www.supervalu.ie)

**Entries are to be emailed to: [tidytowns@musgrave.ie](mailto:tidytowns@musgrave.ie)**

**Closing date : Monday 8th June 2026**

## EPA CIRCULAR ECONOMY AWARD

PRIZE FUND €3,500

Sponsored by  
 The Environmental  
 Protection Agency



The purpose of this award is to recognise communities that have undertaken activities last year that support and promote the values of circular economy. In a circular economy, we value resources and products and try to prevent wasting them and to keep them in use for longer. Reuse, repair, sharing of products, waste prevention (e.g. food waste prevention, plastic or other packaging waste prevention) are circular economy activities and may be activities your community has supported. Initiatives that raise awareness of circular economy or support circular businesses within your community are welcome. Work done under the main competition category ‘Sustainability – doing more with less’ can be relevant to this special award. Through recognising

these communities, the Environmental Protection Agency hopes to encourage and raise awareness of practical examples of circular economy actions taking place in our communities.

The overall national winner will receive a €1,000 prize, 2nd prize €800, 3rd prize €700 and two runner-up prizes of €500.

For more details please email [cep@epa.ie](mailto:cep@epa.ie)

## TREE PROJECT AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,000

Sponsored by  
 The Tree Council of Ireland



The Tree Project Award is an initiative that values the positive influence of trees on the overall ambience of a town or village. It places importance not only on the initial planting but also on the ongoing maintenance and establishment of trees throughout their lifespan. This award recognises the TidyTowns Committee that through their hard work has fostered an urban woodland atmosphere within their community.

The project may equally focus on the preservation of old and established trees, acknowledging their natural, historical, cultural, botanical, or landscape significance.

The size and scope of the undertaken project, along with the tangible benefits it brings to the community, will be carefully evaluated.

To apply for the award, please use the Tree Project Award entry form and attach at least four images illustrating the conditions before and after the project was carried out. These images will serve as visual evidence of the project’s impact and transformation.

For more details visit:

**[www.treecouncil.ie/supervalu-tree-project-award](http://www.treecouncil.ie/supervalu-tree-project-award)**

## DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by the Health Service Executive (HSE), National Dementia Service



The HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign aims to inspire everyone in our communities to include and support people affected by dementia.

This award aims to recognise TidyTowns committees who are making positive changes within their community to promote and facilitate inclusivity for people living with dementia. This can include raising awareness for dementia, involving people living with dementia and their families and carers in community activities, creating physical spaces that are accessible for everyone, or developing outdoor spaces that stimulate the senses or lend themselves to reminiscing.

### Prize

A winning prize of €2,000 and a runner up prize of €500 will be awarded to the TidyTowns

Committees from a large town/urban centre.

A winning prize of €2,000 and a runner up prize of €500 will be awarded to the TidyTowns

Committees from a village/small town.

Further information is available by emailing [understandtogether@hse.ie](mailto:understandtogether@hse.ie)

## THE 'DARK SKY IRELAND' SPECIAL AWARD

PRIZE FUND €3,000

Sponsored by Dark Sky Ireland



The overall aim of the award is to recognise practical, community led actions to reduce light pollution and protect dark skies. The purpose of the award is to celebrate communities who have taken action, raised awareness within their communities and worked collaboratively across their and other communities to co-create solutions that protect dark skies at night.

The award celebrates projects that demonstrates how responsible outdoor lighting can promote the UN SDGs identified by Dark Sky Ireland (SDG Champion Organisation 2025-27)

We are looking for TidyTowns Committees to demonstrate steps you have taken to address the issue of light pollutions, how you have shared information on it, and how you have collaborated in your community and with others to protect dark skies.

One overall prize of €1,000 will be awarded to a TidyTowns Committee for impact and project merit.

In addition, two prizes of €750 will be awarded to two TidyTowns Committees; one from the Large Town/Large Urban Centre categories and one from the Village/Small Town categories.

An additional two 'highly commended' prizes of €250 each will be awarded.

Completed applications should be emailed to [competition@darksky.ie](mailto:competition@darksky.ie)

Further information can be obtained by emailing: [info@darksky.ie](mailto:info@darksky.ie)/[www.darksky.ie](http://www.darksky.ie)



**SuperValu** 

**Tidy Towns**

*Caring for our environment*

**Information Booklet**  
**2026**

