

SuperValu Tidy Towns

Caring for our environment



Information
Booklet 2023



Dear TidyTowns Volunteers,

Welcome to the 2023 SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

This year we are celebrating a new milestone as we mark the 65th anniversary of one of the most important, and indeed special competitions, in the land.

TidyTowns is a unique, volunteer-led programme which has transformed our towns and villages, making them more attractive places in which to live, visit and raise a family.

We continue to build on the extraordinary legacy of the programme built up by TidyTowns volunteers over many years.

Projects have greatly enhanced our public spaces and green areas, our streets, laneways and walkways.

As Minister for Rural and Community Development, I am a strong supporter of TidyTowns groups and since my Department was established in 2017, over €8 million has been provided to assist these groups in their endeavours.

Our TidyTowns groups have been instrumental in supporting the government's objectives to ensure towns are sustainable and thriving hubs of commercial and social activity as set out in the National Rural Development Policy, Our Rural Future, and the Town Centre First Policy.

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has been embraced and now is the backbone of many TidyTowns group's activities, and the incorporation of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals is very encouraging in terms of ensuring sustainability is central to our efforts.

The Special Awards attached to the competition bring an added dimension for groups and are an additional way in which to highlight the wonderful projects and initiatives being worked on by TidyTowns groups.

There is significant prize money attached to these awards which is intended to recognise excellence and encourage the scaling up of efforts in towns and villages the length and breadth of the country.

I would strongly encourage groups to consider entering some of these Special Award categories, and the extended closing date provides extra time to complete the applications.

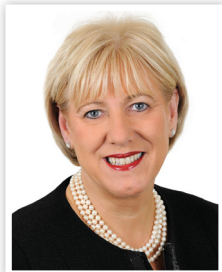
I also wish to thank the many sponsors of these awards for the ongoing support.

As we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the competition, I would like to applaud and record my appreciation for the thousands of volunteers who have given of their time and skills over many years.

You should be very proud of your efforts to make our towns and villages more vibrant, attractive and resilient places in which to live and work. I would also like to specially thank our national sponsor SuperValu who have been sponsoring the competition for over thirty years and I welcome the opportunity to continue this partnership in the years ahead.

And I would like to commend last year's winner, Trim in County Meath, who I am sure will be fighting hard to defend its crown this time round. I would like to finish by wishing you all every success in the 2023 competition and I look forward to meeting you at the Awards Ceremony later in the year.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

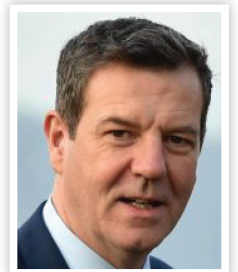



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Heather Humphreys TD
Minister for Rural and Community Development

Dear TidyTowns Volunteers,

SuperValu is committed to creating vibrant and sustainable communities that care for our planet. Over the last three decades, our teams and local retailers have worked hand in hand with local TidyTowns committees to develop and grow the SuperValu TidyTowns competition to what it is today, a uniting force, gathering people from all parts of the community to work together for a common cause.



Every year, over 30,000 volunteers, across over 1,000 committees, give three million hours of their time to SuperValu TidyTowns. It is a phenomenal effort and a credit to all involved. Over the past 32 years of our partnership, we are proud that the competition has gone from strength to strength. SuperValu TidyTowns has succeeded in not only making our towns and villages more attractive but more sustainable too which is evident in the increased focus on biodiversity and conservation projects that will enhance our communities for years to come.

Climate action starts in our communities, and I am truly excited for the future of SuperValu TidyTowns and convinced that it will have an even more critical role to play in sustainably developing our future communities. The passion and drive from committee members is what makes SuperValu TidyTowns a truly unique and special initiative, one which I believe is unparalleled in Europe.

Our youth also have an invaluable contribution to make when it comes to climate action in our communities and I am excited for the continued work we will do with them in schools over the coming years to mobilise and harness their infectious enthusiasm. SuperValu has just launched the SuperValu Let's GROW' initiative in partnership with GIY which aims to put homegrown food centre-stage in classrooms across Ireland, by enabling 50,000 children to learn how to grow food at school. The 'SuperValu Let's GROW' programme will also encourage schools to take on projects that go beyond the classroom, inspiring students to get involved in their local communities for decades to come, through initiatives like SuperValu TidyTowns.

Last year marked another milestone year for the SuperValu TidyTowns competition, with a record 1,000 groups engaging in the competition, and an incredible 882 entries. I am delighted that SuperValu has been chosen to continue our sponsorship of the TidyTowns competition for the next five years and we're very grateful to the Department of Rural and Community Development for this exciting opportunity.

I also want to thank those who have been involved in the past and the volunteers who continue to be involved in improving their local environment and making their area a better place to live, work and visit, creating a pride of place and positively changing the fabric of our communities from generation to generation. As we move forward, we are committed to the continuous evolution and reinvigoration of SuperValu TidyTowns and are truly proud to drive the positive impact it has in every community throughout the country.

We are delighted to have the ongoing partnership of the Department of Rural and Community Development and Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. We have exciting and ambitious plans when it comes to biodiversity, sustainability and making our towns and villages more attractive places to live. On behalf of all at SuperValu, I would like to wish you the very best for this year's competition.

Ian Allen
Managing Director, SuperValu

Welcome...

Welcome to the 2023 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. This booklet will provide all the information you need in order to complete and submit your entry for the 2023 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 2023 competition. Further information including sample maps, map graph paper and the new SuperValu TidyTowns Handbook can be found by visiting www.tidytowns.ie.

How To Complete Your 2023 SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form

The editable Word version of the entry form can be found at www.tidytowns.ie.

Please ensure you read this booklet before completing the entry form.

Please sign/insert name and date on the entry form in the 'About You' section and ensure that you have completed all 8 categories.

When emailing your entry, it should all be contained in 1 email and must not exceed 20MB. Please check the sent and spam folder in your email account to ensure that the email has been sent.

Sometimes less is more, be mindful of the volume of material you submit. The Adjudicator has limited time to review your work during adjudication, so it should be presented in a clear and concise manner.

This may be the adjudicator's first time to adjudicate your town or village so please include a map of your area. Hand-drawn maps are fine once they contain a map legend and have notable landmarks highlighted, in addition to all of your 2023 projects.

Include your TidyTowns 3/5 year plan with your entry.

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. Completed Entries should be submitted by email only to; tidytowns@drccd.gov.ie

Closing date:

Wednesday

May 10th 2023

All entrants must visit www.tidytowns.ie to ensure their 2023 entry has been received and registered. A list of all registered entries will be updated regularly on the TidyTowns website. If after May 22nd, your entry is not listed, please contact the TidyTowns unit on 01 773 6938, failure to do so may result in your entry not being registered for the 2023 competition.

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 (“the Department”). In the event of any dispute the decision of the Department will be final.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Entries should be submitted electronically to **tidytowns@dracd.gov.ie** on or before the closing date, the entry should be contained in one single email and should not exceed 20MB. **Entries cannot be submitted via DropBox, Google File share or any other file sharing mode.**
7. Additional information should be clearly referenced to the appropriate category in the entry form. Adjudicators welcome the inclusion of links to websites or social media, which can support your activities or give further information. Links should only be included to support material provided in the entry form and should be kept to a minimum. Adjudicators have a limited period of time in which to review material provided, remember, less is more. We recommend that you identify all photographs, referencing them all clearly with information on the various project or initiative and the date of when the photograph was taken.
8. An acknowledgement email will issue from the Department’s TidyTowns email address to all correspondence received in respect of 2023 entries. A list will be updated regularly on the TidyTowns website listing all entries that have been registered for the 2023 competition. All entrants must visit **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 01 773 6938, failure to do so may result in your entry not being registered for the 2023 competition.
9. Marks are awarded for the quality of your entry form. The form should be concise and should clearly reference all works undertaken since June 1st 2022. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The adjudicator will examine new or maintenance projects, which have been completed between June 1st 2022, and May 10th, 2023 (competition closing date). Adjudication will commence in early June and run to early August.
14. Prize winners will be announced in Q4 2023 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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 55
- Sustainability – Doing more with less 55
- Tidiness & Litter Control 90
- Residential Streets & Housing Areas 55
- Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes 55

Total 550

18. Prizes unless otherwise stated, consist of a money prize and a certificate.

19. 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.
20. 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.

21. 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

22. 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

23. 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.

24. 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 5 / Within 10 / Within 15
- Population C&D within 10 / Within 15 / Within 20
- Population E&F within 15 / Within 20 / Within 30
- Population G&H within 20 / Within 30 / Within 40

25. Other initiatives may arise from time to time and qualifying towns will be contacted by the Department as required.

SuperValu TidyTownns – 2023 Special Awards

We are delighted to bring you our Special Awards for 2023.. 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 TidyTownns unit at tidytownns@drcd.gov.ie or the sponsors email provided. If you are entering one or more of the Special Awards, which are relevant to a TidyTownns category, you should also record this as a project on your 2023 SuperValu TidyTownns Entry Form.

Please refer to the TidyTownns website www.tidytownns.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 TidyTownns unit.

TREE PROJECT AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,000

Sponsored by The Tree Council of Ireland

The Tree Project Award recognises the significant impact that trees can have in a town or village. It is essential that careful thought is put into not only the planting but also the management of the trees over their lifespan. This award recognises the TidyTownns Committee which has demonstrated the highest commitment to creating an urban woodland atmosphere.

Equally, the project can be centred around the protection of old and established trees; trees that are of natural, historical, cultural, botanical or landscape significance within a community. Consideration will be given to the benefit of the project to the community and the size and scale of the work carried out

Applications should be submitted using the Tree Project Award entry form and be supported with at least four images which show before the project was undertaken and after.

For more details see www.treecouncil.ie

GUM LITTER TASKFORCE AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by the Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT)

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) aims to increase awareness of the chewing gum litter issue by influencing a positive behavioural change around gum litter disposal and stronger enforcement of the €150 fine.

The GLT would like to reward communities that are implementing environmental awareness initiatives to eliminate chewing gum litter in their area.

For more info, please visit www.gumlittertaskforce.ie/

CLIMATE ACTION AWARD

PRIZE FUND €6,000

Sponsored by Department of Environment,
Climate and Communications

The overall aim of the Climate Action Award, sponsored by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, is to recognise the input local communities can make in addressing climate change. The purpose of this award is to raise awareness of climate action, and promote climate literacy, enable local communities to deliver change at a local level, and promote behaviour change in the wider community.

Four prizes will be awarded:

1. €2,250 for the best entry from a village/small town (Category A to D)
2. €2,250 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 €500.

Further information is available by emailing
Climateawards@decc.gov.ie

YOUNG PERSONS IN TIDYTOWNS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by Department of Rural and
Community Development

The Young Persons Award is aimed at the 16 to 24 age group who are actively involved in projects and initiatives of their local Tidy Towns 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 Tidy Towns groups actively involve young people in the 16 to 24 age group in contributing on an ongoing basis to their local Tidy Towns 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 Tidy Towns Group whose initiatives have resulted in an increase in involvement from the 16 to 24 age group, resulting in a positive outcome for the Tidy Towns 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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €6,000

Sponsored by Department of Environment,
Climate and Communications

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 globally agreed goals to end poverty, protect the planet and secure peace and prosperity for all. The SDGs belong to everyone and everyone can make a contribution to achieving the goals. A key commitment under the 2030 Agenda is that no one should be left behind.

Throughout the entry form you will see where many of the goals are aligned to the different Tidy Towns categories. Please identify, if applicable, under each category where your projects or initiatives aim to address one or more of the SDGs. The SuperValu Tidy Towns competition has links to many of the goals and we would welcome any attempt made by Tidy Towns committees to highlight these goals and raise awareness of them in your community. Further information on the SDGs can be found by visiting: www.gov.ie/sdgs

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
4. A special Youth Award of €1,000

THE ISLAND AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,500

Sponsored by Department of Rural and
Community Development

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 GAELTACHT AWARD

PRIZE FUND €2,500

Sponsored by Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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

The Entry Form must be completed in Irish.

THE RIAI TOWN CHALLENGE AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

The award is open to all categories. Sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland

Towns and villages are great places to live, work and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) is delighted to support TidyTown Committees who are involved in the regeneration or creation of such places with the services of a Registered Architect. The Architect will work with a local TidyTown Committee to prepare a high-level shared urban design 'vision' to help solve a problem in your town. The award consists of an architectural commission.

If your town or village has difficulties, for example with derelict sites, signage, lack of public space, traffic or parking issues, this RIAI Award will give you the opportunity to work with a Registered Architect to develop a vision for an urban design that can help solve a problem and enhance your town or village. Registered Architects are trained to develop and deliver solutions for our built environment.

The commissioned Registered Architect will provide an analysis of the problem as initially identified by the local TidyTown Committee, in addition to developing a concept/vision to address it. The commission will result in an illustrated Report, which will be made publicly available and a presentation to the local TidyTown Committee.

This is an RIAI sponsored Special Award to promote good urban design in Irish towns and villages. The award consists of an architectural commission to the value of €5,000.

In order to apply, the local TidyTown committee will complete the entry form, including a short paragraph which identifies the positive characteristics of the town, as well as its problems. This should be supported with photographs.

For more details please visit www.riai.ie

SUPERVALU AND ASIAM INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AWARD

PRIZE FUND €2,000

Sponsored by SuperValu and AsIAm

This award aims to recognise the outstanding work done by committees in embracing and including the autism community. SuperValu and AsIAm are working in partnership to promote the creation of more inclusive communities and this award is to acknowledge the hard work done by the committees who are making changes to promote and facilitate inclusivity of the autism community.

A prize of €2000 will be awarded to the TidyTown committee who best demonstrates how they promoted the inclusion of the autism community through autism friendly projects and initiatives.

Resources and information regarding autism friendly practices are available on supervalu.ie, AsIAm.ie and ILoveClonakilty.ie.

For more details see www.AsIAm.ie or www.supervalu.ie

THE RIAI GOOD WINDOWS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €500

This competition is open to the Village, Small Towns and Large Town categories.
Sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland

The RIAI Good Windows Award is a Special Award to promote appropriate windows in Irish towns and villages. The streets of Irish towns and villages are composed of both historic and modern buildings. Well-kept historic windows and well-designed modern windows are equally valid.

There is a prize of €500 for the town with the most appropriate windows as follows:

- An example of a well-kept historic window in an urban street, and
- An example of a good modern window or fully glazed opening in an urban street.

In order to apply, the local TidyTowns committee will complete the entry form and submit photographs of two buildings which are located in a street and have appropriate windows. The photographs should clearly show the building and the windows.

The awarding committee may share the award between more than one town as appropriate.

For more details please visit www.riai.ie.

LEAVE NO TRACE TIDYTOWNS AWARD

PRIZE : Awareness Training for 15 people valued at €1,100, access to online Leave No Trace Resources and promotion across social media.

Sponsored by Leave No Trace Ireland

Now in its fourth year, the Leave No Trace TidyTowns 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

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 is open to any community group who has shown an appreciation for their water environment and water heritage during 2022, by showing examples of initiatives undertaken last year, (examples include: support to biodiversity and water heritage; citizen science; promotion of angling; awareness raising events and initiatives; promotion of Nature Based Solutions; clean ups of local waterbodies; provision or upgrading of amenities, etc.)

This special Award is sponsored by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) www.fisheriesireland.ie (responsible for managing the inland fisheries and sea angling sectors); Waterways Ireland www.waterwaysireland.org (responsible for the management of inland navigable waterways) and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) www.lawaters.ie (working with communities to get involved in caring for local waterbodies).

For more details see www.watersandcommunities.ie

HERITAGE AWARD

PRIZE FUND €3,000

Sponsored by the Heritage Council

The Heritage Award, sponsored by the Heritage Council, aims to promote awareness of the importance of our local heritage and how it can contribute to a sense of place and belonging.

Heritage includes buildings, monuments and collections and also our landscapes, native wildlife and woodlands, seascapes, geology, heritage gardens and parks, inland waterways, folklore and crafts.

The Heritage Award recognises local communities who manage and enhance an aspect of heritage in their area, and promote its value to a wider audience.

For more details, please email:
mail@heritagecouncil.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

EPA CIRCULAR ECONOMY AWARD

PRIZE FUND €2,000

**Sponsored by The Environmental Protection
 Agency**

The EPA Circular Economy Award is to recognise communities that have undertaken activities that support a circular economy. In a circular economy waste is prevented and products are reused or repaired for reuse. By preventing waste and supporting the circular economy we can make the most of our resources while protecting the environment. Any initiatives to reduce the use or consumption of resources (materials, products, water, energy), sharing resources/products, reuse, repair or remanufacture are included; whether by the community, householders, businesses, schools, with your local authority, or other organisations. Work done under the main competition category 'Sustainability - doing more with less' can be relevant to this special award.

The overall national winner will receive a €1,000 prize, with 2 national runner-up prizes of €500 each.

For more details please email cep@epa.ie

TINY TIDYTOWNS SCHOOL AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by SuperValu

SuperValu are introducing a new primary school award called Tiny Tidy Towns.

We all want our kids to understand and experience the wonder of growing their own food and the importance of protecting local biodiversity, so that they can grow up in a healthier world.

So, this year SuperValu are calling on all Primary schools to show all the great work they are doing to improve their school and classroom environments.

Does your primary school grow their own fruit and vegetables? Have you rewilded an area for bees and biodiversity? Have you a dedicated area to pollinator friendly flowers?

We are also looking for you to share your food growing and biodiversity projects developed in the school and any future plans to further enhance this topic in the 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