



Community Groups Eligibility Form

June 2020

The national Environmental Pillar would like all community groups to be aware of the positive effects that they can have on their local environment, and to become a guardian for the local ecology which we all rely on for our health and wellbeing.

The purpose of this document is to ascertain whether your community group can be considered an environmental group for inclusion in the Environmental Electoral College of your local Public Participation Network (PPN).

Where a PPN receives an application for a group to become a member of their Environmental Electoral College, and that group is not included in the agreed [list of eligible groups](#), the Resource Worker will refer the application to the Coordinator of the national Environmental Pillar. The Coordinator will then decide on the basis of the responses to the questions below, whether to validate the application or not.

With this in mind, the first question to ask yourself is 'Would you consider your group to be an environmental group?'

The National Environmental Pillar classifies an environmental group as one whose;

“Primary objectives and activities are Environmental (i.e. Ecological) protection and / or environmental sustainability.”

This means that other issues such as sightliness and tidiness are of secondary importance to ecological health, and that no practices which knowingly damage the health of the environment shall be undertaken.

To be included in the PPN Environmental Electoral College, a group must meet the following environmental standards:

- Having considered the environmental impact of all of your activities, your organisation is actively working towards being more environmentally friendly.

- Being aware of any ecologically sensitive areas within your geographical area, and what impacts your work has on these areas. (Eg. Bogs, wetlands, rivers and waterways, native woodland, meadows, hedgerows, coastlines, copses, grassland, open areas, protected species etc.)

- ❑ Only use weed and plant control methods that are accepted under national [Organic Standards](#).

- ❑ Only be involved in cutting, trimming, grubbing, burning or otherwise destroying hedgerows and ditches within the open cutting season (Sept 1st until February 28th) [as provided for in law](#), including in urban and suburban areas.

- ❑ Be planting majority native and pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs. (Use the resources provided in the [All Ireland Pollinator Plan](#).)

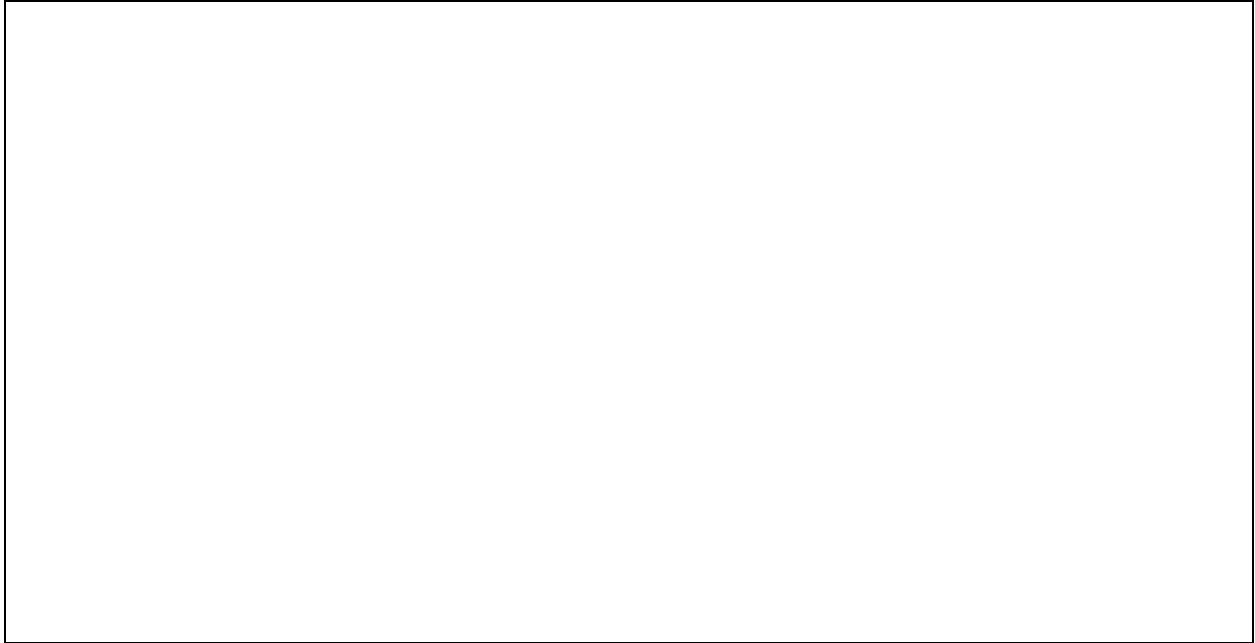
- ❑ Whilst engaged in your groups activities, protecting all native animals, including birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles from persecution.

- ❑ Confirm that your group does not persecute, trap, destroy, shoot or otherwise harm animals, with exceptions for invasive alien species.

If your group meets these standards, please continue on to the following questions. Please note, we are not looking for perfect answers to these questions. All groups are on their own journey to learn environmental best practice. Rather, we are looking for your answers to demonstrate an understanding of the environmental challenges faced in your area and how you are working to learn about and implement their solutions.

Examples of your work

1. What were your main projects undertaken in the last 12 months?



2. What are your planned projects for the coming 12 months?



3. Please provide a link to your online presence:

4. Please detail what actions you have taken towards becoming more environmentally friendly. These can include projects, awareness building, sub committees put in place, experts and groups you have worked with or sought advice from, or things you have learned.

5. Please outline what practices, if any, you have stopped or are moving away from due to their negative environmental impact.

6. Have you written any of the lessons learned, outlined in questions 4 and 5, into a guidance document that your group will follow, or into a similar written promise to uphold and improve upon the standards you are setting for your group's future?

If you would like your group to be considered for membership of the Environmental Electoral College of your local PPN, then please send your responses to the above questions to the PPN Resource Worker along with your PPN membership form.

Contact for further information:

Karen Ciesielski

Coordinator

The Environmental Pillar

Macro Centre

1 Green Street

Dublin 7

Tel: +353 1 878 0115

email: karen@ien.ie

web: www.environmentalpillar.ie