



Environmental Pillar

Criteria for Membership of Environment Electoral College of County/City Public Participation Networks (PPNs)

Jan 2024

Introduction

The national Environmental Pillar is a Social Partner and an advocacy coalition of 30 national environmental NGOs.

The national Environmental Pillar is the validating body for the membership of the Environmental Electoral Colleges of the City and County Public Participation Networks (PPNs). Below is a list of criteria and areas of activity that qualify a local/regional group to be members of an Environmental Electoral College of a PPN, together with a list of all the national networks whose local/regional groups are automatically eligible.

For more information on the history of the national Environmental Pillar's relationship with the PPNs, visit the [Environmental Pillar website](#).

A. Eligibility criteria for an organisation seeking or renewing membership of the Environmental Electoral College

1. The primary objectives and activities of the organisation must be Environmental (i.e. Ecological) protection and / or environmental sustainability. See list of possible activities in B, below.
2. The organisation must be a not for profit organisation.
3. The organisation must be formally organised, in line with the criteria to join their county's PPN.
4. The organisation must have been in existence for the period of time in line with the criteria to join their county's PPN.
5. The organisation must be able to demonstrate a substantial level of activity in promoting its aims and objectives over a period of at least 6 months prior to application for membership.
6. Single issue protest groups are not eligible for membership. Single issue protest groups are groups who organise themselves around one issue only, with no engagement outside of that issue.

B. Suggested list of acceptable Environmental areas applicable to regional and local groups who will be eligible to join the Environment Electoral College.

Any group whose **main objective** is to address environmental, climate, biodiversity, or sustainability issues is an environmental group.

These issues include:

- Permanent protection of wildlife
- Permanent protection of habitat
- Species specific care – protection/rehabilitation/reintroduction
- Organic horticulture or education
- Environmental education or protection
- Environmental sustainability
- Resource efficiency and recycling
- Invasive alien species prevention/removal
- Rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife
- Environmental policy

C. Agreed National Networks whose local groups will automatically be eligible to join the Environment Electoral College

- An Taisce
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Beekeeping Associations
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Butterfly Conservation Ireland
- CELT - Centre for Ecological Living and Training
- Clean Coast Groups
- Climate Action Networks
- Coast Watch
- Community Gardens
- Community Reuse Network
- Community Supported Agriculture

- Community Wetlands Forum
- Coomhola Salmon Trust
- Crann
- Cycling Campaign
- Eco Congregations
- ECO UNESCO
- Extinction Rebellion
- Feasta
- Food Sovereignty Movement
- Forest Friends
- Friends of the Earth
- Friends of the Irish Environment
- Global Action Plan Ireland
- Gluaiseacht
- Good Energies Alliance Ireland
- Green Communities
- Green Economy Foundation
- Green Foundation Ireland
- Green Sod Ireland
- Green Schools/Green Campus committees
- Grow It Yourself (GIY)
- Hedgerows Ireland
- Irish Forest Schools
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council
- Irish Seed Savers Association
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Leave No Trace
- Local Environmental Networks

- Naturalists' Field Clubs
- Presentation Ecology
- Rediscovery Centre
- Sonairte
- Sustainable Ireland Cooperative
- Sustainable Energy Communities
- Sustainable Projects Ireland
- SWAN – Sustainable Water Network
- The Curlew Trust
- The Golden Eagle Trust
- The Native Woodland Trust
- The Organic Centre
- Transition Towns
- Vincent Wildlife Trust
- VOICE
- Wildlife Rescue
- Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

D. Procedure for PPNs to verify a group's eligibility for inclusion in the Environmental Electoral College

All groups looking for inclusion in the Environmental College, unless in the list of Agreed Eligible Groups (C), should be sent to the Environmental Pillar for ratification.

If the group is not included in the list above, they should complete the Community Groups Eligibility Form.

Resource Workers should contact the Environmental Pillar by emailing

catherine@ien.ie or office@ien.ie. The email should include the Community Groups Eligibility Form from the group in question.

When this information is received by the Environmental Pillar, the group's eligibility will be checked by a minimum of two people. The Environmental Pillar may request further information about the group if necessary.

All groups may be checked from time to time for eligibility to the Environmental College. This will be carried out by the Environmental Pillar. Groups whose main objectives are no longer environmental (ie ecological), or whose activities do not reflect their stated environmental ethos will be removed from the Environmental College.

The decision of the Environmental Pillar is final.

Contact for further information:

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