

CLIMATE NEWS



Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official
Newsletter

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL'S FIRST BIODIVERSITY ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE 2024-25

Dublin City Council is delighted to announce its first Biodiversity artists in residence who will work within the Council on Biodiversity responsive projects, assisting the Council to transform thinking around the challenges of Biodiversity within a city.

The three artists will each work for six month residencies, creating a substantial body of work, that will use the transformative power of the arts as a catalyst for conversations and new thinking about Biodiversity within Dublin City Council. This project is funded by Creative Ireland, through the Creative Climate Action Fund.

The three artists selected are Rosie O'Reilly, Luke Casserly and Louis Haugh, who will each bring unique creative thinking, in-process problem solving and process enquiring. The artists will be supported by the Climate Action team in Dublin City Council's Department of Environment and Transportation.

Rosie O'Reilly is the first artist in the programme and she will be working in the Council until September 2024.

About the artist

Rosie O'Reilly is a contemporary artist and educator who operates at the intersection of art and science and through embedded research projects (Cambridge University and UCD 2024, Parity Studios residency 2020 – 21, LSC 2021, CIIMAR Marine Research Institute Porto 2018 – 2019). Her practice starts with the values of interspecies coexistence, social justice and care in order to support new thinking in the face of biodiversity loss and climate change.

She works speculatively with vernacular knowledge held close at hand as the tool to make evident that science and technology must co-exist with ancient knowledge. Drawing on mythology and entangled with the more than human world she tries to get closer to different thought systems and in doing so create space and shelter for new collaborative narratives and forms of world making.

Recent projects include Idirlinn which brought academic research from UCD (CCAT wetland research) and Cambridge University together with the vernacular language of reed building to tell multispecies stories with cuttlefish and crows on the site of Dublin's reclaimed flood plain/reedbed (now Foley Street).

About the project

These ambitious artists residencies aim to transform Dublin City Council's Executive and Elected Members' ability to incorporate Biodiversity as an embedded value in their aims.

Artist-led projects will originate from working within the council, exploring ideas and ways of thinking that will lead to innovative outcomes, from intimate encounters to building robust structures that support staff engagement, empower and instil information sharing and project visibility by harnessing the transformative capacity of art for change.

Outcomes and artistic values will feed into the council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 – Climate Neutral Dublin 2030 and onwards. This project is funded by Creative Ireland, through the Creative Climate Action Fund.

#DCCBioArtist #ArtInNature #climateneutraldublin

Installation image; Idirlinn, Shifting the Silence

The Lab, Dublin, 2022

Image Courtesy of the Artist

Photo credit: Louis Haugh

Biodiversity artist in residence, Rosie O'Reilly

Image Courtesy of the Artist



EARTH DAY 2024



‘The idea for Earth Day originated with a US Senator, Gaylord Nelson. Senator Nelson had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the US and wanted to harness a spirit of activism to raise awareness of environmental issues.

The first Earth Day ‘inspired 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts.’

Earth day has continued to unite people across divides in an effort to address environmental damage and the effects of climate change. It has evolved into the largest civic event on Earth and continues to highlight specific issues and the need for us all to work together to advocate for a better future.

The theme for Earth Day 2024 is ‘Planet vs. Plastics’ with Earthday.org demanding a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. According to the website:

‘Plastics extend beyond an imminent environmental issue; they present a grave threat to human health as alarming as climate change. As plastics break down into microplastics, they release toxic chemicals into our food and water sources and circulate through the air we breathe. Plastic production now has grown to more than 380 million tons per year.’

If you would like to take part in the #EarthDay drive to reduce plastic, there are lots of ways that you can take action. Some suggestions are:

- [Reject Fast Fashion](#)
- [Ditch the Disposables](#)
- [Take part in a community clean-up](#)
- [Sign the global plastic treaty petition \(Earthday.org\)](#)
- [Plant trees](#)

You can also check out the **[Sick of Plastic](#)** campaign facilitated by VOICE and Friends of the Earth Ireland, which has lots of information and suggestions for actions you can take.

Interesting Facts:

2016

Signing of the Paris Agreement.

It was no accident that the United Nations selected Earth Day to sign the most significant climate accord in the history of the climate and environmental movement. On Earth Day 2016, world leaders from 175 nations broke a record by doing exactly that.



DISCOVER YOUR PLASTIC FOOTPRINT



JOIN THE #PLASTICDETOXCHALLENGE

A CONNECTED CIRCULAR ECONOMY

On the 27th March, the launch of the shared Dublin City Council and Belfast City Council Connected Circular Economy Hubs Report took place in Spade Enterprise Centre. The Strategic Assessment Review/Strategic Outline Case Report was funded by the Shared Island Fund and was undertaken by M-CO, with a view to assessing how connected circular economy hubs can drive the transition of Belfast and Dublin to a Circular Economy.

According to M-CO:

‘International experience indicates that Circular Economy Hubs are key enablers and catalysts in the transition to a circular economy within cities and regions.’

The aim for Connected Circular Economy Hubs is to achieve 5 objectives as follows:

- Support the establishment of and scaling-up of circular economy businesses and social enterprises in Belfast, Dublin (and potentially along the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor).
- Support businesses and social enterprises in their transition to circularity through targeted engagement.
- Increase circular material use rate along the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, through businesses engaged.
- Identify circular economy barriers at city region level and explore opportunities to address these barriers so that Belfast and Dublin can advance strategic aims for the circular economy, material flows, productivity, inclusive growth and innovation.
- Contribute to Belfast and Dublin achieving Ne-Zero emissions by 2050.
- The report showed the potential of moving forward with Circular Economy Hubs and outlined future steps necessary to achieve this.



OTHER NEWS

On March 12, 2024, the EU parliament voted for a revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), a crucial step towards accelerating climate action on buildings. The successful vote means that the European Parliament and the EU Council have both approved the agreement text from December 2023, which comes at the end of a long negotiation process since the European Commission's first EPBD proposal in 2021.

EU signs off on updated emissions rules:

'The Council today adopted the revised directive on industrial emissions (IED) and the regulation on the establishment of an industrial emissions portal (IEP), two complementary pieces of legislation aimed at regulating and monitoring the environmental impact of industrial activities.

The new rules will offer better protection of human health and the environment by reducing harmful emissions from industrial installations, while promoting energy efficiency, a circular economy and decarbonisation.

They will also improve environmental data reporting by upgrading the existing European pollutant release and transfer register (E-PRTR) in order to establish a more comprehensive and integrated industrial emissions portal.'



Meadow Saxifrage, which is a threatened species and regionally extinct according to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, has been seen flourishing in Wicklow recently. Photo courtesy of Wicklow Nature