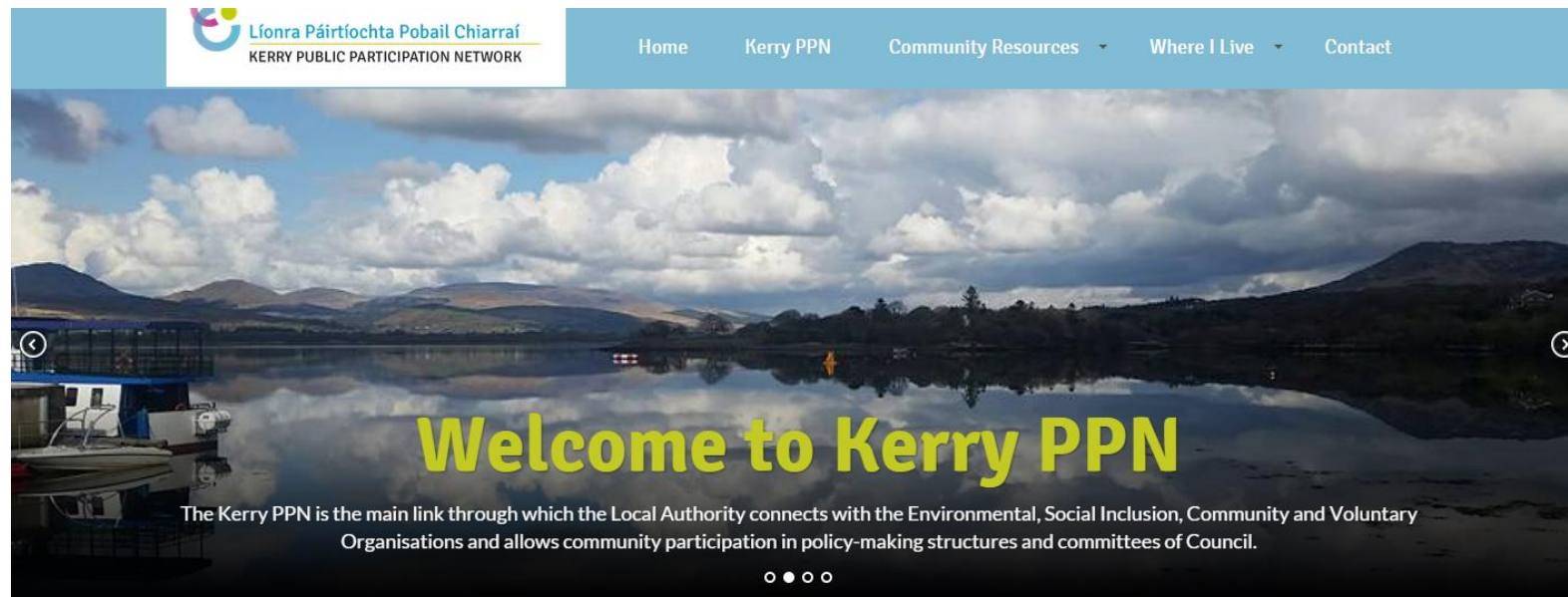


Kerry Public Participation Network



**Environmental Linkage Group Meeting
Policy Development Areas for Kerry County Council
28th May 2024**



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chiarraí
Public Participation Network Kerry



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chiarraí
Public Participation Network Kerry

USE OF PESTICIDES IN COUNTY KERRY

Environmental Linkage Group Meeting

*Kerry's Wildflowers &
Wild Weeds*



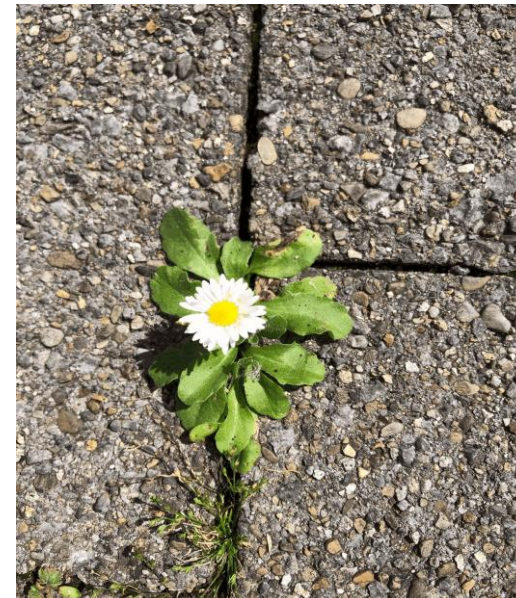
Pesticides & Herbicides

- **Pesticides:** Terms used include herbicide, weed killer, insecticides and fungicides
- A **herbicide**, also known as a weed killer, is **defined by law as a pesticide**
- All herbicides, insecticides and fungicides as well as moss killers and slug killers, both amateur and professional, are defined by law as pesticides and are also referred to as PPPs (Plant Protection Products)
- Most used pesticide/herbicide used in Kerry & Ireland is Glyphosate, also known as RoundUp



Legislation

- There are legislations in place for pesticide use to protect the health and safety of members of the public and to protect the environment and animals
- The main Irish legislation: S.I 155/2012
- The main European legislation: EC 1107/2009 & 2009/128/EC
- The Pesticide Control Division (PCD) and the Pesticide Registration Division (PRD) at DAFM are responsible for enforcing these legislations



Kerry County Development Plan 2022-28:

Objective 2: To conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in the county

- Seek to reduce the overall use of pesticide/herbicides across the various sections of the organisation.

Action	Potential Stakeholders	Timeframe	Performance Indicator
2.1.2 Implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan with each MD to undertake suitable Actions including the reduced use of pesticides/herbicides where possible	MD officers/areas engineers; Biodiversity Office, KCC	2022-2028	Number of actions undertaken and recorded on the All Ireland Pollinator tracker

Climate Change Risk Assessment (KCC):

- **Annex D:** Concerns regarding flooding events with overland flow of pesticides impacting on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem
- **Annex F:** The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs)
- **Annex G:** Otters (a protected species) - Decrease in water quality with the use of pesticides



Kerry's Wildflower & Wild Weeds

Points To Note:

- It takes around 7 days for grass or a hedge to change colour once it is sprayed
- No warning signs leave children & other members of the public at high risk of coming into contact with harmful chemicals
- Many public bodies have made significant improvements by way of reducing or eliminating pesticides in public areas. However a significant part of public areas are sprayed by private users who are unaware of any existing legislation
- Private persons who apply pesticides in public areas are breaking the law
- Councils who continue to use pesticides in public areas are doing so illegally, according to article 12 of S.I 155/2012

Current model: How we are creating the problem

- Spraying takes place - 7 days later there are signs of plants dying/yellowing
- Plant dies but is usually not removed
- Dead plant decomposes and the pesticide get washed into water sources with rain (causing more issues downstream and in our groundwater and drinking water and other water habitats)
- Dead plant decomposes and creates compost/soil
- New seeds/plants move into compost/soil and grow
- Spraying cycle begins again!





New model: How can we do it differently?

- Spray - Collect - Remove - Compost elsewhere
- Then it makes no sense to spray as it is additional work and costly!
- Collect - Remove - Compost elsewhere
- Can be done by hand on a small scale
- Use of machinery on larger scale
- Use of alternatives for use in control of invasive species - eg. Foamstream
The leading glyphosate free solution to weed control <https://www.foamstream.ie>

Für die kommunale Kehrmaschine MC 130 hat Kärcher ein Drei-Besen-System entwickelt.

24. Juni 2019 - 05:59 Uhr



Für seine kommunale Kehrmaschine MC 130 hat Kärcher erstmals ein Drei-Besen-System entwickelt. Der dritte Seitenbesen eignet sich zum Auskehren von schwer zugänglichen Stellen. Bild: Kärcher.

What's happening in Kerry & Ireland:

- Many local Tidy Town Groups, Rural Development Associations and Community Groups are moving away completely from use of pesticides and they want KCC to do the same
- Huge awareness about beneficial actions and impacts to local biodiversity through the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, which KCC has committed to
- Many local Tidy Town Groups, Rural Development Associations and Community Groups are organising wildflower walks and creating wildflower spotter sheets, to help the public get to know these plants and their importance in feeding pollinators
- Many public bodies have made significant improvements, eg. Kerry County Council has changed mowing regimes in many public areas for pollinators



What's happening in Europe & Other Countries:

- Courts across the United States have **proven glyphosate based weed killers to have directly caused cancer in humans**
- Glyphosate is banned in Fiji, Saudi Arabia and 5 other countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council
- Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bermuda. Germany, Mexico, France and many other countries proposed to ban glyphosate from 2024
- **Pesticide use in public areas is already banned** in many countries including the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Austria, and Luxembourg, most of Argentina and most of Canada and most of the United States
- **Alternatives:** An organic vegetable oil based alternative called Foamstream is successfully used in many areas in the United Kingdom to eradicate invasive species

Solutions/Asks:

- **Kerry County Council stop all use of pesticides** in public spaces and in all areas they work in and manage, in accordance with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- **Implement** other models. Use of appropriate machinery and alternative glyphosate-free weed management techniques
- **Redirect** money spent on pesticides into machinery or glyphosate-free weed management that can do the job
- **Educate** the public. Warning signs must be placed in all shops selling pesticides to state that it is a criminal offence to spray along public roads and other areas used by the general public
- **Hire and train** pesticide control wardens similar to a dog warden or traffic warden
- **Upskill and retrain staff** in new approaches
- **Written commitment** from local candidates and councillors that they support the move away from use of pesticides, in line with an integrated approach to county wide and local area biodiversity and climate action plans and wellbeing strategies

References/Sources:

- Kerry County Council Development Plan 2022 -2028:
<http://docstore.kerrycoco.ie/KCCWebsite/planning/devplan/volsix.pdf>
- Kerry County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment (Local Area Climate Action Plan Final Report 13th March 2023): <https://www.kerrycoco.ie/kerry-county-council-local-authority-climate-action-plan-2024-2029/>.
- Petition to ban herbicides in public areas - Presentation for the joint committee on public petitions by James Walsh: 08/05/22:
https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/committee_on_public_petitions/submissions/2022/2022-05-12_opening-statement-james-walsh-petitioner_en.pdf
- Pesticide Action Network Europe: <https://www.pan-europe.info>

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