



Baile an Chollaigh BALLINCOLLIG ease drive carefully

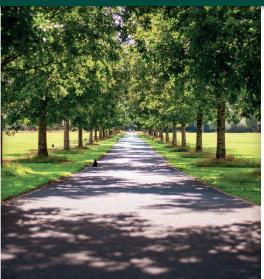




Caring for our environment

Information Booklet 2025















Dear TidyTowns Volunteers,

Fáilte chuig comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu. Welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

I am delighted to launch the 2025 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition, now in its 67th year having been established in 1958.

This competition continues to be one of the most recognised sustainable, environmental and community initiatives in the country. In 2024 there were over 900 towns competing for the prestigious award. It is a real honour for me to come on board as your new Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

TidyTowns is a unique community movement. It transforms our towns and villages, making them more attractive places in which to live our lives; be that working, eating out, shopping, visiting

in which to live our lives; be that working, eating out, shopping, visiting or raising a family.

The SuperValu TidyTowns competition continues to go from strength to strength each year and that is in no small part due to the programme built up by you, the TidyTowns volunteers over many years.

TidyTowns led projects have greatly improved our local environment – from our public spaces and green areas to our streets, roads, laneways and walkways. I see evidence of this every week as I travel through towns and villages across the country who have the unmistakable magic touch of a TidyTowns committee, and none more so than in my own county of Mayo.

As Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, I will continue the Department's strong support for TidyTowns groups. Since my Department was established in 2017, over €11.1 million in funding has been provided to assist these groups in their endeavours.

TidyTowns groups have been instrumental in supporting and enhancing the government's objective 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.

TidyTowns groups continue to embrace the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan as well as incorporating the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals into projects and works completed. This is encouraging in terms of ensuring sustainability and biodiversity is central to our efforts.

The Special Awards attached to the competition also bring an extra dimension for groups and are an additional way in which to highlight the wonderful projects and initiatives being worked on by TidyTowns groups nationwide. We are delighted to welcome back many of our Special Awards sponsors as well as welcoming some new additions to the TidyTowns family. I wholly encourage groups to consider entering some of these Special Award categories, and the extended closing date provides welcome extra time to complete the applications.

Over 30,000 volunteers give up their time, all year round, to come together to make our communities tidier, brighter and more vibrant locations for us all to enjoy. I don't believe there is any better example of the 'Meitheal' in action. –

In recent months, parts of the country experienced some significant damage due to Storm Éowyn – a once in a generation storm. I know that many of these same volunteers were the first people who were out and about in their towns and villages doing what they could to help, clean up, and repair any damage. I really want to acknowledge and thank all of TidyTowns volunteers for their dedication to their communities. I also recognise the valuable support given to our TidyTowns groups by local authorities, local businesses and other community groups.

I would like to say a special thank you to our national sponsor, SuperValu, now in their 35th year of sponsoring the competition. SuperValu have been wonderful partners on this journey and I look forward continuing this partnership for years to come.

Finally, I would like to commend last year's winner, Ballincollig in Co. Cork, deserving winners of Ireland's Tidiest Town 2024.

Ba mhaith liom gach rath a ghuí oraibh go léir i gcomórtas 2025. Táim ag súil le hiontrálacha álainn na mbailte agus na sráidbhailte a fheiceáil agus bualadh leat ag an searmanas bronnta níos déanaí sa bhliain.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir.

Dara Calleary TD

Minister for Rural and Community Development

Dear TidyTowns Volunteers,

As we launch the 2025 SuperValu TidyTowns competition, I am delighted to welcome you on behalf of SuperValu and our local retailers. Now in its 35th year, this initiative continues to foster community engagement, environmental responsibility, and pride of place. I sincerely thank each of you, whether a long-standing member or new volunteer, for your dedication and enthusiasm. It's your hard work and commitment that makes this competition so impactful. I look forward to seeing the inspiring projects you'll undertake to enhance towns and villages while advancing our shared sustainability goals.



SuperValu TidyTowns continues to grow, with over 30,000 volunteers across 1,000 committees participating last year. The scale of your contributions is remarkable. Last year alone, SuperValu TidyTowns members collectively donated over one million volunteer hours. This reflects the deep passion and drive within communities nationwide and highlights the competition's lasting relevance.

I also extend my gratitude to our local SuperValu retailers. Your support and guidance throughout the year strengthens our communities, and your ongoing commitment is truly admirable.

Beyond aesthetics, SuperValu TidyTowns champions inclusivity and connection. It's also about creating picturesque spaces and building resilience and shared purpose. This initiative brings together people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life, reflecting the diversity of modern Ireland. We are especially proud that, last year, over 15% of our volunteers were born outside Ireland and actively contribute to their communities through SuperValu TidyTowns.

This year, we continue to build on our commitment to sustainability. We encourage projects that enhance biodiversity, reduce waste, and promote climate resilience. From rewilding initiatives and pollinator-friendly gardens to waste reduction campaigns and energy-efficient projects, every effort contributes to a more sustainable future. Our collective responsibility is to ensure that our towns and villages remain vibrant and resilient for generations to come.

As the days grow longer, we will see volunteers across the country planting, painting, and leading sustainability projects. Your innovation and teamwork continue to inspire, and I encourage everyone, all ages, to get involved. The joy and sense of pride that come from participation are unmatched.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reflect on 2024 and congratulate our very worthy SuperValu TidyTowns award winners of Ballincollig, Co. Cork. Having first entered the competition in the 1960s, this achievement was the result of years of dedication, strategic planning, and consistent efforts to engage the community. The committee emphasised the importance of inclusivity, inviting everyone from schoolchildren to senior citizens, to contribute ideas and participate in activities. This broad involvement created a deep sense of ownership and pride among residents, showcasing what can be accomplished when people unite for a shared purpose. A huge congratulations to all in Ballincollig on their fantastic achievement.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Minister Dara Calleary in his new role in the Department of Rural and Community Development. We look forward to his leadership in continuing to support and promote this competition. We are confident that working together SuperValu TidyTowns will continue to thrive, inspiring even more communities to come together and make a lasting positive impact. As we look forward to the 2025 competition, let's make this another incredible year for SuperValu TidyTowns. Whether you are picking up litter, planting trees, or collaborating on sustainability efforts, your dedication makes a tangible difference. Thank you for your passion, hard work, and community spirit.

Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

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Luke Hanlon

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

Managing Director, SuperValu





Welcome...

Welcome to the 2025 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. This booklet will provide all the information you need in order to complete and submit your entry for the 2025 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 2025 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 2025 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. Entries cannot be submitted via Dropbox, Google File share or any other file sharing mode.

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 2024 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@drcd.gov.ie**

Closing date:

Monday 12th May 2025

All entrants must visit www.tidytowns.ie to ensure their 2025 entry has been received and registered. A list of all registered entries will be updated regularly on the TidyTowns website. If after 19th May 2025, your entry is not listed, please contact the TidyTowns unit on 01 773 6988, failure to do so may result in your entry not being registered for the 2024 competition.



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@drcd.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 2025 entries. A list will be updated regularly on the TidyTowns website listing all entries that have been registered for the 2025 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 7736988, failure to do so may result in your entry not being registered for the 2025 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 10th May 2024. 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 10th May 2024 and 12th May 2025 (competition closing date). Adjudication will commence in early June and run to early August.
- 14. Prize winners will be announced in Q4 2025 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. The Department is not responsible for replacing lost/damaged prizes
- 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
В	201 to 1,000
С	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
Н	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 TidyTowns - 2025 Special Awards

We are delighted to bring you our Special Awards for 2025. 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 TidyTowns unit at **tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie** or the sponsors email provided. If you are entering one or more of the Special Awards, which are relevant to a TidyTowns category, you should also record this as a project on your 2025 SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form.

Please refer to the TidyTowns website **www.tidytowns.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 TidyTowns unit.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €6,000

Sponsored by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications



The overall aim of the Sustainable Development Goals Award, sponsored by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, is to acknowledge the role the SDGs play in everyday life. The awards aim to raise awareness of the SDG goals and to recognise the benefits they offer locally, nationally and globally as a guide to improving quality of life. They aim to achieve decent lives for all on a healthy planet by 2030. Positive, empowering community actions are key to meeting this goal.

When submitting an entry, clearly state in the subject, the name of the TidyTowns Group, location and that its an entry to the SDG Award 2025.

Further information is available at www.gov.ie/sdgs and by emailing SDGS@decc.gov.ie.

GREENWAYS & ACTIVE TRAVEL AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by Department of Transport



The Department of Transport is delighted to sponsor two new special category awards, one for Greenway projects and another for Active Travel Projects this year. The provision of walking and cycling facilities in our cities, towns and villages is critical in providing safe and accessible transport corridors connecting our urban centres for pedestrians and cyclists. This infrastructure are public assets designed for use by members of the public to undertake trips for a range of purposes – recreational, commuting, travelling to school and undertaking errands.

These routes can offer an opportunity to the local community to showcase the beauty of their local area through their stewardship endeavours. This special category primarily seeks to recognise the efforts of TidyTowns Groups in relation to integrating built infrastructure with ecological best practices as well as enriching local community assets.

For more information on Greenways and Active Travel, please contact your local authority or Waterways Ireland.



YOUNG PERSONS IN TIDYTOWNS AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail 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 TidyTowns 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 TidyTowns groups actively involve young people in the 16 to 24 age group in contributing on an ongoing basis to their local TidyTowns 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 TidyTowns Group whose initiatives have resulted in an increase in involvement from the 16 to 24 age group, resulting in a positive outcome for the TidyTowns 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

TINY TIDYTOWNS SCHOOL AWARD PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by SuperValu



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

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.

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 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

GUM LITTER TASKFORCE AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by the Gum Litter Taskforce



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/



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 TidyTowns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the TidyTowns 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 TidyTowns 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

THE ISLAND AWARD PRIZE FUND €1,500

Sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development



Tuaithe agus Pobail
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 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 2024, 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



CLIMATE ACTION AWARD

PRIZE FUND €6,000

Sponsored by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications



The overall aim of this award is to recognise the impact local communities can make in addressing climate change. The purpose of this award is to celebrate communities who have taken climate action, raised awareness within their communities and worked collaboratively across their and other communities to cocreate solutions to taking climate action.

Four prizes will be awarded:

- €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 and
- 4. A special Youth Award of €1,000.

Further information is available by emailing

Climateawards@decc.gov.ie

LEAVE NO TRACE TIDYTOWNS AWARD

PRIZE: €1,000 along with a Leave No Trace trainer for one day to deliver either an Awareness course or workshop, access to online Leave No Trace Resources and promotion across social media.

Sponsored by Leave No Trace Ireland



Now in its sixth 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

TOWN CENTRE FIRST AWARD

PRIZE FUND €5,000

Sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development



The Town Centre First (TCF) policy, launched in February 2021, is a cross-government policy that aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. TCF recognises that every town is unique in its challenges, needs and opportunities and lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. More information can be found on gov.ie – Town Centre First Policy

The TCF Award, sponsored by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the National Town Centre First Office, credits exemplary efforts by towns in driving forward town centre regeneration and revitalisation in line with the policy and recognises the vital role TidyTowns groups have in the sustainable development of their communities and the enhancement of our town centres

For more details see www.tidytowns.ie or www.towncentrefirst.ie



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.

SUPERVALU INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AWARD

PRIZE FUND €2,000

Sponsored by SuperValu

SuperValu

At SuperValu, we believe the very best communities include everyone. Every age, ethnicity, and ability have something to bring in making our communities better places to live, work, and play.

This award aims to recognise TidyTowns committees who are making positive changes to promote and facilitate inclusivity for everyone by embracing and including all members of their community.

A prize of €2000 will be awarded to the TidyTowns committee that best demonstrates how they promoted the inclusion of all community members through inclusive projects and initiatives.

For more details, see www.supervalu.ie

EPA CIRCULAR ECONOMY AWARD PRIZE FUND €3.500

Sponsored by The Environmental Protection Agency



The purpose of this award is to recognise communities that have undertaken activities last year that support and promote the values of circular economy. In a circular economy, we value resources and products and try to prevent wasting them and to keep them in use for longer. Reuse, repair, sharing of products, waste prevention (e.g. food waste prevention, plastic or other packaging waste prevention) are circular economy activities and may be activities your community has supported. Initiatives that raise awareness of circular economy or support circular businesses within your community are welcome. Work done under the main competition category 'Sustainability – doing more with less' can be relevant to this special award. Through recognising these communities, the Environmental Protection Agency hopes to encourage and raise awareness of practical examples of circular economy actions taking place in our communities.

The overall national winner will receive a €1,000 prize, 2nd prize €800, 3rd prize €700 and two runner-up prizes of €500.

For more details please email cep@epa.ie



TREE PROJECT AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,000

Sponsored by The Tree Council of Ireland



The Tree Project Award is an initiative that values the positive influence of trees on the overall ambience of a town or village. It places importance not only on the initial planting but also on the ongoing maintenance and establishment of trees throughout their lifespan. This award recognises the TidyTowns Committee that through their hard work has fostered an urban woodland atmosphere within their community.

The project may equally focus on the preservation of old and established trees, acknowledging their natural, historical, cultural, botanical, or landscape significance.

The size and scope of the undertaken project, along with the tangible benefits it brings to the community, will be carefully evaluated.

To apply for the award, please use the Tree Project Award entry form and attach at least four images illustrating the conditions before and after the project was carried out. These images will serve as visual evidence of the project's impact and transformation.

For more details visit:

www.treecouncil.ie/supervalu-tree-project-award

THE BAT CONSERVATION IRELAND AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,500

Sponsored by Bat Conservation Ireland



Bat Conservation are sponsoring an award in an area of your town and village which you are designing and developing to help encourage bat activity. This includes, but is not limited to planting for bats, creating a pond or water feature, planting and/or preserving mature trees and hedgerows, and enhancing areas that have already been developed to encourage bat activity. This

can include the erection of bat boxes at suitable locations to encourage roosting bats, but should also include a planting dimension. A no insecticide/ pesticide ethos should feature strongly in your design and application, along with native plants that are natural to your locality. For help and suggestions see www.gardeningforbats.com. For this competition we would like to see how bats can inspire the creation of a beautiful, creative and colourful space to enhance both the visual aspect of the area, as well as a more practical aspect. The theme for the design is 'Bats Benefit our Community!' The award consists of €1,500 towards the project.

For more details, please see: www.batconservationireland.org and www.gardeningforbats.com

THE BAT CONSERVATION IRELAND AWARD

PRIZE FUND €1,500

Sponsored by Bat Conservation Ireland



Bat Conservation are sponsoring an award to create a public art mural or street artwork that highlights the importance of promoting biodiversity and creating garden and outdoor spaces that encourage bat activity. For this competition we would like to see how bats can inspire the creation of beautiful art. The theme for the illustration is 'Bats Benefit our Community'! The award consists of an artistic commission of €1,500 towards the project.

For more details, please see: www.batconservationireland.org and www.gardeningforbats.com



Caring for our environment





