

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

### **Introduction**

The Environmental Pillar is a national Social Partner and an advocacy coalition of 27 national environmental NGOs. Between 2009 and 2014, as a Social Partner, it nominated local people to represent the environment on a range of local authority bodies. The Environmental Pillar gave up this nominating right, a right still maintained and exercised by other Social Partners, in order to ensure that the PPNs included an environmental dimension.

Under the Public Participation Network (PPN) structures, these nominations are made by the members of the PPN. The Environmental Pillar is the validating body for membership of the Environmental Electoral College. This arrangement was agreed with the Government.

**The Environmental Pillar as the validating body for the membership of the Environmental Electoral Colleges of the City and County PPNs provides below 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.**

### **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.
2. Single issue protest groups are not eligible for membership.
3. The organisation must be a not for profit organisation.
4. The organisation must be formally organised with, at least, a constitution.
5. The organisation must have been in existence for 12 months prior to an application for membership.
6. The organisation must be an independent and legally discrete body, and not an organisation managing a project with a limited life span.
7. The organisation must be able to demonstrate a substantial level of activity in promoting its aims and objectives over a period of at least 12 months prior to application for membership.

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

- Permanent protection of wildlife
  - 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

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

- An Taisce
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Bee-Keeping Associations
- BirdWatch Ireland.
- Butterfly Conservation Ireland
- CELT - Centre for Ecological Living and Training
- Clean Coast Groups
- Coast Watch
- Community Gardens
- Community Reuse Network
- Coomhola Salmon Trust
- Crann
- ECO UNESCO.
- 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 Campuses
- Green Communities
- Green Economy Foundation
- Green Foundation Ireland



- Green Sod Ireland
- Green Schools
- Grow It Yourself (GIY)
- Hedge Laying Association of Ireland
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council
- Irish Seed Savers Association
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Presentation Ecology
- Rediscovery Centre
- Sonairte
- Sustainable Ireland Cooperative
- Sustainable Projects Ireland
- 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

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