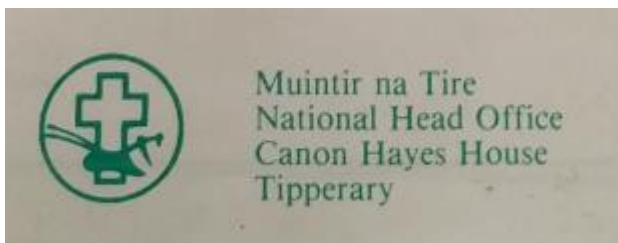


## **The Common Good**

**The preservation of the environment is everyone's responsibility.**

## **What Muintir Can Do**

Muintir Na Tire  
National Head Office  
Canon Hayes House  
Tipperary



**MESSAGE**

**FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

**OF**

**MUINTIR NA TIRE**

The Bible tells us that when God made the world, He looked on all that He had made and saw that it was good. In one way or another we all have been guilty of squandering the richness of the wonderful world He created. All is not well with the earth, and even though, comparatively speaking, the Irish environment is clean, we have no reason to be complacent. We too have fouled the air, littered the countryside, and polluted our lakes and rivers. There is, however, much that we can do by individual effort and by community endeavour. I hope that Muintir na Tire's leaflet will be of assistance to voluntary groups. I earnestly request each local community to take on an environment project as part of their development programme in the current year. In doing so the approach should be a balanced one, listening with much care to advice given, and thoughtfully studying all facts presented. Please do make your contribution to preserve Ireland's environment; this can be achieved if we all act now.

## **WHAT MUINTIR COUNCILS CAN DO**

Cumulatively, ALL our solutions can achieve an immense amount of change for the better. Muintir Councils can contribute by promoting environmental awareness through local campaigns of lectures, seminars, exhibitions, school competitions, environmental projects, etc.

### PROMOTE AWARENESS

Arrange local talks on topics such as:

CLEAN AIR

CLEAN WATER

LANDSCAPING OF TOWNS & VILLAGES

THE PROBLEM OF LITTER

FORESTRY & TREE PLANTING

WILD LIFE

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FARMING PRACTICES

WASTE RECYCLING

CONTROL OF DOGS

THE OZONE LAYER AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

PRESERVATION OF AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, etc.

### SUPPORT WITH

Photographic or other Exhibitions, Newsletters, Slide Shows, Demonstrations, Video Shows, Schools' Competitions, Anti-Litter Campaigns, Information Seminars, etc.

### WASTE RECYCLING PROJECTS

Grants are available from the Department of the Environment to persons or groups prepared to establish waste recycling projects involving glass, paper, cans or plastic. Grants of 50% of the capital cost involved in setting up recycling are envisaged but grants of up to 75% will be considered depending on the nature of the project. Grants will be available to meet start-up costs only and any operations assisted will be expected to become viable in a short time. The grants scheme is particularly suited to voluntary bodies and community groups. Grant application forms available from:-Department of the Environment, Custom House, Dublin 1.

A school scheme is now in operation where 50p per bag of 150 cans is paid to pupils. The scheme is known as 'CASH for CANS'.

(See overleaf for address for further information - Martin Walsh, Recycling Can-Paign).

### HERITAGE PROJECTS

Muintir Councils should seek out and undertake heritage projects such as the restoration of Ringforts or other excavations of archaeological importance, or old historical buildings or ancient monuments, etc. (See overleaf for address for further information ~Department of An Taoiseach).

### AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The Wildlife Service has published a revised index and maps of nearly 1,500 sites of scientific interest in Ireland (maps 2 1/2 inch scale). This list should be consulted before development work of any kind is undertaken to help ensure that the preservation value of these sites is taken into consideration.

(See Useful Addresses overleaf).

### GROW MORE TREES

Organise a campaign to grow more trees. Encourage local voluntary organisations (Macra na Feirme, ICA, Foroige, etc.) to plant a tree.

Under Section 14 of the Local Government Act of 1963, elected members of a Planning Authority have power to grant assistance to an organisation or individual concerned in the preservation or development of amenities which could include the planting and preservation of trees.

(See Useful Addresses overleaf).

### WATER POLLUTION

It is now a serious offence to discharge any trade effluent or sewage or silage effluent into any water save in accordance with a licence issued by the Local Authority. Local people should be vigilant and report any water contamination immediately to the Local Authority.

Water pollution is not a Government problem alone: it is a national problem and one which can only be solved if all members of the community play an active part in combatting it. All of us must be constantly aware of the potential dangers our actions may pose to the environment.

### LOCAL AMENITIES

The provision and development of open spaces and amenity and landscaping work to improve the local environment are assisted with grants from National Lottery surplus funds. These funds are administered through the Local Authorities.

### AIR POLLUTION

Smog is a combination of smoke and fog. The principal source of smoke pollution is the ordinary domestic fireplace and back boilers where solid fuels are burnt (usually bituminous coals).

Smog is a health hazard, especially for the very young as well as people already in poor health. People with chest ailments are particularly at risk. Smoke pollution must be cut down drastically and this can be done by changing to cleaner, less polluting fuels. Encourage people to burn only smokeless or low smoke fuels such as coalite, Rheinbraun Union Nuggets, Bord na Mona Peat Briquettes. Some of these may cost more but the extra cost can be offset, in part, by higher heat output. For those who can afford it use Electric Heating, Oil-Fired Central Heating or Gas. Discourage the lighting of bonfires or the burning of refuse or straw (by farmers). Encourage drivers to use unleaded petrol in their cars where this is possible.

Use local newspaper, radio, or newsletter to promote this practice. Unleaded petrol is now 10p per gallon cheaper than leaded petrol.

## CO--OPERATION

Encourage co-operation by the people of local communities with the Department of the Environment, statutory agencies and voluntary bodies in any schemes or projects being promoted from time to time to protect this country's natural environment. This co-operation and support by all will ensure the health, safety and well-being of all our people in this and future generations.

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT,  
Custom House, Dublin 1. Tel. 01-793377.

TREE COUCIL OF IRELAND,  
33 Botanic Rd Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Tel. 01-306996

NATIONAL HERITAGE COUNCIL.  
Department of An Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Dublin 1. Tel. 01763546.

THE WILDLIFE SERVICE.  
Office Of Public Works, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2. Tel. 01-615666

MARTIN WALSH. RECYCLING MANAGER. RECYCLING CAN-PAIGN IRELAND LTD  
19 Melboun Road, Bishopstown, Cork. Tel. 021-542067.

EAMON MOLONEY, RECOVERABLE RESOURCES CO-OP.  
Tallaght, Dublin. Tel. 01-503 193

GOVERNMENT PUBLICA TIONS SALE OFFICE  
Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street. Dub/m 2. Tel. 01-710309.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,  
Clare Street, Dublin 1. Tel. 01-715233.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
Marlboro Street, Dublin 1. Tel. 01-734700.

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE.  
6 Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Tel. 01-795 744.

BORD FAIL TE,  
Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Tel. 01-76587].

AN TAISCE.  
Tailors Hall, Back Lane. Dublin 8. Tel. 01-541786.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH UNIT,  
St. Martin '5 House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4 Tel. 01 -6025

DEPARTMENT OF THE MARINE,  
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2. Tel. 01-785444

EOLAS.  
Glasnevin. Dub/m 9. Tel. 01370101