

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

TO PROTECT AND RESTORE URBAN, RURAL, COASTAL AND RIVERINE ENVIRONMENTS



TWO DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

DR. T.K WHITAKER BUILDING DUNDALK
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
EIRCODE: A91 K584
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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE
& THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2025

DAY 1 - PRESENTATIONS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

09:30-10.00	REGISTRATION AND TEA/COFFEE
10:00- 10:10	WELCOME ADDRESS: Dr Diarmuid O'Callaghan, President, DkIT
10.10-10.20	MINISTERIAL ADDRESS: Minister Christopher O'Sullivan - Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity
CHAired BY: DR FRAN IGOE LOCAL AUTHORITY WATERS PROGRAMME (LAWPRO)	

THEME 1	URBAN
10.20-10.40	PROFESSOR CHRIS SPRAY - Tweed Forum / University of Dundee: Holistic overview of NbS, Setting the scene - Nature-based Solutions, the ugly, the bad and the good.
10.40-10.55	STEPHEN O'MALLEY - CEO CIVIC - LAWPRO Guidance Document for Planners, Developers & Developer Agents
10.55-11.10	TOM BRENNAN & EAMONN O'CONNELL - LAWPRO NbS Team - Rainwater Management Planning & LAWPRO Demonstrator Projects
11.10- 11.25	FRANCIS FINNERTY - Wastewater Asset Strategy Manager - Uisce Éireann - NbS to improve Wastewater System Performance and Capacity - Actioning the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.
11:25-11:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK – NETWORKING

THEME 2	RURAL/BIODIVERSITY/CLIMATE
11:45-12:00	KEVIN MOTHERWAY - Regional Co-ordinator - CARO - NbS for climate action
12:00-12:15	PADRAIG CRONIN (ACRES) & DANIEL HAYDEN (Farming for Water EIP) - Nature based solutions in agricultural landscapes - Leveraging agri-environment scheme opportunities to scale up NbS on farms.
12:15-12:30	MEADHBH BOLGER - Biodiversity Officer - The Heritage Council - NbS to enhance Biodiversity - Increasing the Biodiversity ambition within NbS.
12.30-12.45	HANS VISSER - Fingal Co. Council Biodiversity Officer - Delivering NbS Projects in Fingal - Synergies in Water & Biodiversity
12.45-14.00	LUNCH

THEME 3	RIVERINE
14.00-14.20	CONOR GALVIN AND LORCAN SCOTT - OPW - Nature-based Solutions for Flood Risk Management. Biodiversity implications & elements associated with NbS.
14.20-14.35	DECLAN COOKE - IFI - IFI & Nature-based Solutions

THEME 4	COASTAL
14.35-14.50	KATHERINE CRONIN - DHLGH Marine Environment - Nature-based solutions in Ireland's marine and coastal areas and the Nature Restoration Regulation
14.50-15.05	SUSANN MILENKOVSKI - Region Skåne - Sweden - Eelgrass Restoration (Remote Presentation)
15.05-15.20	DR. TODD S. BRIDGES - College of Engineering - University of Georgia, USA - Advancing Nature-based Solutions for People and the Planet (Remote Presentation)
15.20- 15.40	TEA/COFFEE BREAK -NETWORKING

THEME 5	PRIVATE SECTOR
15.40-15.55	PAT ROBERTS - Principal Ecologist MKO (CIEEM) - Challenges to Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions
15.55-16.10	OISIN GRIFFIN - Head of Landscape & Urban Design: Cairn Homes - Nature-based Solutions - Developers Perspective
16:10-16:40	PANEL DISCUSSION (INCLUDING Q&A) - Upscaling & Mainstreaming NbS - Challenges & opportunities Discussion with representatives from the various organisations, working in key sectors to give their views on where the future of Nature-Based Solutions is in 2025, and what direction of travel your organisation would like to see.
	NICHOLAS FETTES Ecologist - Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine - Agri Environmental Schemes
	EIMEAR O'KEEFFE Water Policy Advisor - Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage - Water Policy
	SEOSAMH Ó LAOI Climate - Department of Environment Climate & Communications
	JASON TAYLOR Planning - Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage
	JOE SEYMOUR Assistant Director, Transport Planning and Investment - National Transport Authority
	DEE KEHOE CPD Director Engineers Ireland
16:40-16:45	CLOSING REMARKS - DAY 1 Anthony Coleman Director - Local Authority Waters Programme

DAY 2 - MASTERCLASS WORKSHOPS (3 PARALLEL SESSIONS)

9:45 - 10:00	MEET UP AT THEATRE IN MUIRHEVNA BUILDING FOR WORKSHOP ORIENTEERING		
TIME	URBAN	RIVER RESTORATION	COASTAL RESTORATION
10.00-11.15	RAINWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING Paul Singleton, McCloy Consulting	RIVER RESTORATION IN IRELAND Declan Cooke Inland Fisheries Ireland	OYSTER BED RESTORATION Michael Officer, Programme Manager, Cuan Beo
11:15-11:45	TEA / COFFEE BREAK	NETWORKING	
11.45 - 13.00	BUILDING A RAINGARDEN Stephen O'Malley, CEO CIVIC.	WORKING WITH WILLOW Declan Cullagh Inland Fisheries Ireland	BEACH DUNE RESTORATION Dr. Kevin Lynch, Geography Department, University of Galway
13:00-14:00	LUNCH		



 [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

CARPARKING IS AVAILABLE AT CAR PARK LOCATIONS
2, 3 AND 6 SUBJECT TO A CHARGE OF €2 PER DAY.