



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

13th April 2014

Introduction

The Environmental Pillar is a national Social Partner and an advocacy coalition of 27 national environmental NGOs, and since 2009 it has been nominating local people to represent the environment on a range of local bodies, including: the City and County Development Boards; the boards of the ILDCs and Partnership Companies, and Strategic Policy Committees.

Under the new Public Participation Network (PPN) arrangements these nominations will now be made by the members of the PPN, with the Environmental Electoral College electing 1 person onto the City/County Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

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, and a bank/credit union account.
5. The organisation must have been in existence for a period of at least 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 have accounts or a Balance Sheet/Profit and Loss account from at least one of the previous two years.
8. 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.



9. No organisation whose executive board contains a representative or representatives appointed by any government department, semi-state body or local authority shall be admitted to membership. However, this does not exclude individuals from sitting on the board in a personal capacity.

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

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 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 Schools
- Grow It Yourself (GIY)
- Hedge Laying Association of Ireland
- Irish Doctors Environment Association
- Irish Natural Forestry Foundation
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council
- Irish Seal Sanctuary
- Irish Seed Savers Association
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Just Forests
- Presentation Ecology
- 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
- Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

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