



Suggestions for the type of activities Club Environmental Officers might engage in:

- enthusing others about the environment, chatting with club members about how we reduce our impact, introducing the idea of Leave No Trace, telling people about geology, plants, folklore etc;
- ensuring that conservation and environmental considerations are taken into account in the planning of club events (e.g. promoting car-pooling, encouraging avoidance of eroded routes after wet weather etc);
- arranging an annual club litter-pick, a day with Mountain Meitheal, a Leave No Trace awareness session or a similar event;
- arranging a guest speaker to give a talk on some aspect of the upland environment;
- adding an environment page to your club's website or posting environmental snippets on your Facebook page;
- compiling an annual list of the different plants, birds and other creatures the club comes across in the mountains;
- Emailing reports of Fir Clubmoss and St. Patrick's Cabbage to mike@mountainresearch.net, see page 15 of IML106 for details;
- reporting species sightings through the National Biodiversity Data Centre <http://records.biodiversityireland.ie> or the Ulster Museum - <http://www.nmni.com/CEDaR/Recording/terrestrial-recording>;
- taking photos of damage caused by off-road vehicles, recording date, time, grid reference etc and passing these on to Mountaineering Ireland and National Parks & Wildlife Service (ROI) or Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NI);

- reporting any dumping you across to the local council, or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - 1850 365 121 (ROI), or the Environmental Crime Unit (NI) - 028 9056 9453. You can also download the EPA's 'See it? Say it!' app and use that to report dumping, littering or other pollution;
- Coillte welcomes reports of dumping, irresponsible off-road vehicle activity etc by email to info@coillte.ie;
- building relationships with the landowners, rangers and recreation officers responsible for the areas that you use for your activities;
- with the agreement of landowners, building and maintaining stiles at points where walkers might cause damage to fences (contact helen@mountaineering.ie regarding insurance);
- contributing to consultation processes, e.g. Mountaineering Ireland recently encouraged members to contribute to consultation on Coillte's Strategic Plans for 2016-2020 - http://www.coillte.ie/aboutcoillte/about_coillte/coillte_consultation/coillte_current_consultations/
- watching for planning notices in upland areas, bringing matters of concern to the attention of Mountaineering Ireland, and working with Mountaineering Ireland to make planning submissions where appropriate;
- helping to build evidence of how our mountains are changing by gathering old and recent photographs of mountains in your area to show changes such as evolution of paths, increase in built development, changes in vegetation etc;
- liaising with Mountaineering Ireland regarding any access or conservation issues that arise in the areas where you do your activities.

These are just suggestions; no Club Environmental Officer could do all of the above and some will do other things. Depending on the club's activities, and the officer's interests, each officer and each club should make their own of the role. Advice and support is available from Mountaineering Ireland, email helen@mountaineering.ie or phone 00 353 1 6251115.