

Blue Flag Award 2025

Introduction:

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised environmental awards. Originating in France in 1985 it was launched as an International Programme as part of the "European Year of the Environment" in 1987. In 1988, sites outside of France were awarded and 19 beaches and 2 marinas received the Blue Flag in Ireland. 2025 is the 38th year that beaches and marinas have been awarded in Ireland, with 99 beaches and marinas being awarded for the 2025 season (89 beaches, 10 marinas).

On Friday 16th May An Taisce announced the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients for 2025. The awards were presented by Mr. James Browne TD – Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the presentation ceremony held in the Ravenport Resort in Curracloe, County Wexford.



The Blue Flag season for beaches in Ireland coincides with the bathing season which runs from the **1st June to the middle of September**. Blue Flag sites are only awarded for one season at a time.

Process:

In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained. At beaches, the bathing water must comply with the excellent standard in accordance with the 2008 EU Bathing Water Directive.

The Blue Flag programme requires that beaches achieve excellent bathing water quality, taking into account bathing water sampling results from the bathing seasons of the previous four years. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are responsible for acquiring and retaining the Blue Flag for suitable bathing areas within the county. The Blue Flag season lasts one year and so applications are done on an annual basis. The Cleansing, Beaches and Coastal Protection Section of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is responsible for the Blue Flag application.

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is responsible for the operation of the Blue Flag programme in Ireland on behalf of the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE). Over 50 Countries operate the Blue Flag programme globally and more than 5.000 beaches, marinas and tourism boats will be awarded the Blue Flag this year. The Blue Flag programme in Ireland is supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Award:

In 2025, DLRCC received Blue Flags awards at Seapoint Beach and Killiney Beach.



For more information on the Blue Flag - <http://www.blueflag.global>

DLRCC held a flag rising ceremony on 27th May at Seapoint Beach where the Cathaoirleach was in attendance.



The Blue Flag Environmental Education Activities for Seapoint and Killiney for 2025 are as in the following sections:

1. Leave only Paw Prints (Killiney and Seapoint)

Dun Laoghaire County Council supports the work of the Acclimatize programme. There are 9 Identified and Monitored bathing areas within the county. During bathing season weekly samples are taken and sent to be analysed for E.Coli and Intestinal Enterococci. Results can be found on our Bathing Water page, on our Social Media outlets and on Beaches.ie. These two bacteria's are introduced into our waters through fecal matter. This can come from a number of sources including sewage and animal fouling. This programme has suggested that one dog poo can contaminate an area of water the same size as a tennis court and 0.5m depth.

For more information please visit the Acclimatize Leave only Paw Prints page.

<https://acclimatize.eu/2017-2023/leave-only-paw-prints/>

2. Minute Beach Clean (Killiney and Seapoint)

As part of the Blue Flag season, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council proudly promotes the Clean Coast 2-minute Beach Clean initiative. Find the 2-minute beach clean boards at both Seapoint and Killiney beaches while the Lifeguards are on Duty. Feel free to borrow a litter picker, take a bag and collect some litter during your visit. Snap a picture and use the #2MinuteBeachClean on Instagram to share your work. A lot of people making a small effort can make an impact in tackling the problem of litter along our coastlines. For more information, please visit the Clean Coasts website <https://cleancoasts.org/our-initiatives/2minutebeachclean/>



3. Think Before you Flush (Killiney and Seapoint)

To protect our marine environment only the 3 P's (pee, poo and paper) can be flushed down the toilet. Everything else should go in the bin. See the Dirty Dozen for commonly flushed items that shouldn't be. This campaign is operated by Clean Coasts (An Taisce) in partnership with Uisce Éireann.

Information posters can be found in the public toilets at each beach. For further information please visit the Think Before you Flush website <https://thinkbeforeyouflush.org/>

THE DIRTY DOZEN

These items should **NEVER** be flushed down the toilet

When these items are flushed down the toilet they can cause problems in our homes, wastewater treatment network and the environment

 Cotton Buds	 Baby Wipes	 Facial Wipes
 Cleansing Pads	 Toilet Roll Tube	 Medicines
 Cigarettes	 Plasters	 Nappies
 Tampons	 Tampon Applicator	 Sanitary Pads

Please put these items in the bin and **NOT** down the toilet

Help to beat
THE DIRTY DOZEN
and support **Think Before You Flush**

Join the campaign at thinkbeforeyouflush.org

Think
before
you
flush

Uisce Éireann
Irish Water
Clean
Coasts
An Taisce

Think Before You Flush is operated by An Taisce's Clean Coasts Programme in partnership with Uisce Éireann.

4. Seal Rescue Ireland (Killiney and Seapoint)

Our beaches can be great places to spot wildlife, with seals being frequently spotted by beachgoers. Two types of seal can be spotted, the Grey Seal and the Common Seal. If you see a seal on our beaches keep a 100m distance and never approach them. Do not attempt to touch the seal or put it in the water if it is on land. Dogs must be kept on a leash close to these animals as they could cause injury. Information signs have been installed on both Seapoint and Killiney beach to provide more information or download a copy at the bottom of this page. Information provided courtesy of Seal Rescue Ireland, www.sealrescueireland.org/

DLR and Seal Rescue Ireland are hosting two Blue Flag Environmental Sessions on 8th June on Killiney Beach and 13th June on Seapoint Beach both starting at 11am. Find out more about Seal rescue and rehab programmes and the importance of seals for our local biodiversity. Seal Rescue Ireland is a charity dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured, or orphaned seals. Seal Rescue run a 24-Hour Rescue Line, supported by just over 800 Rescue Network Volunteers who help to assess, and transport seals, covering a whopping 3100 km of coastline. SRI strives to promote ocean conservation and sustainability through education, community engagement and research programmes, in order to protect our marine environment and all life within.



**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council &
Seal Rescue Ireland**

Blue Flag Environmental Education Stall

11am Sunday 8 June Killiney Beach

11am Friday 13 June Seapoint



Comhairle Contae County Council

5. Killiney Beach Smart Pebbles Project (Killiney only)

The Cleansing, Beaches and Coastal Protection has been working with UCD as part of the Score project, installing smart pebbles on Killiney beach with the help of Dalkey Tidy Towns.

The SCORE (Smart Control of the Climate Resilience in European Coastal Cities) project, funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, aims to develop and implement innovative adaptation measures to protect coastal and low-lying areas from climate risks like sea level rise, flooding, and erosion. The project integrates ecosystem-based approaches (EBAs) with smart technologies, such as low-cost sensors and digital twin technology, across ten Coastal City Living Labs (CCLs) in Europe.

In Dublin, the CCL focuses on Dún Laoghaire, addressing coastal flooding issues affecting the DART train line and local water infrastructure. SCORE has developed a number of tools, including a low-cost sensors catalogue, and community geosurveys to involve local.

6. Litter Demonstration Box (Seapoint only)

The Beaches Team in DLRCC, collected items that have been left on the beaches across the County in spring 2025. These items are on show in a Perspex box located at Seapoint Beach. Information is on display that shows how long these items take to decompose when left on our beaches. This project emphasizes the importance of disposing of rubbish responsibly, including using the bins provided, carrying out litter picks on our beaches and bringing rubbish home. Disposing of rubbish correctly eliminates harmful effects to fish, birds and wildlife that live on beaches.

stakeholders and enhance urban climate resilience. This short You Tube video concisely explains the project on Killiney beach, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn34HihhDWg>. DLR have participated in community pebble installation and collection days to gather information on the movement of material on our coastline.

Visit Killiney beach to view the photo boards and participate in the project as a Citizen Scientist.

For more information visit <https://score-eu-project.eu/>

THE WASTE IN THIS BOX WAS COLLECTED AT DLR BEACHES IN MAY 2025



HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?

Decomposition rates for common marine debris



Remember to refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, repurpose, and recycle.
Always dispose of your litter correctly to protect our marine environment.



www.dlrcoco.ie