Protecting People and Planet from Pesticides
Alternatives to Pesticides

- There is no silver bullet
- Needs to be a clear policy framework
- It takes time
- Communication is key
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Do nothing!

“The cheapest alternative is no alternative”
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Preventative measures

Prevention is better than a cure

- Design spaces that are weed unfriendly
- Use membranes under paths and paving
- Cover planting
- Mulching
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The ‘old fashioned’ way

- Hoeing / raking
- Mowing
- Hand weeding
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The ‘new fashioned’ way

• Hot water
• Foamstream
• Electricity
• Flame / brushing
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Invasive species
- Foamstream - crassula
- Mesh tech - knotweed
- Stem injection – hogweed
- Rootwave
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Developing a policy

• Political support
• 100’s of towns and cities already pesticide-free
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Developing a policy

- Undertake an audit
- Set a clear pathway with achievable objectives
- Organise trials of different systems
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Developing a policy

• Create a taskforce
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Developing a policy

• Communicate with the public
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The benefits

The environment: reduced pollution (air, ground and water). Herbicide use in urban areas, and more specifically on impermeable surfaces, is actually a major source of water pollution, which generates significant costs for local authorities.

Biodiversity: pollinating insects and other beneficial insects, soil micro-organisms, birds, amphibians, pets and so on.

Citizens: protection for the most vulnerable groups, quality of life for residents and those entering the city and its green areas.

Staff: in parks and public spaces: short- and long-term health consequences from occupational exposure.
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The benefits

Getting ahead of the game – you can pre-empt any changes in pesticide regulations

Reducing your costs – long term adoption of pesticide free techniques has shown cost savings in the long term

As a selling point to the public – the public are keen to see pesticide reductions

To become a part of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan
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A joined up approach

Strasbourg, France –

• 2008 the city of Strasbourg made the decision to go pesticide-free
• Trained council workers in the adoption of new techniques as well as encouraging the public to accept greater levels of ‘weediness’.
• They have used mechanical brushes, flame weeder, steam and other mechanical methods.
• Developed planting and layout techniques for green spaces that help to deal with weeds naturally with use of mulches and plant selection
• Differentiate between areas looking at how often weeds actually need to be controlled or whether they can just be left.
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Conclusions

• There is no silver bullet, a successful pesticide-free approach requires many different techniques in order to succeed

• In order to succeed the municipality (council) needs to be fully behind the idea, willing to try different approaches and realise that this is a long term objective that cannot be realised over night

• The support of the public is vital. Public awareness and education is a key element of any pesticide-free system
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What can we offer you?

• Guide for Local Authorities
• Case studies and other freely available information on our website [http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-workshop-resources/](http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-workshop-resources/) and PAN Europe [http://www.pesticide-free-towns.info/methods-techniques](http://www.pesticide-free-towns.info/methods-techniques)

• Assistance in public communication
• Putting you in contact with suppliers of alternatives
• Putting you in touch with others working towards pesticide free
www.pan-uk.org

- Visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/PesticideActionNetworkUK/
- Or drop PAN UK an email – pesticide-free@pan-uk.org

Thank You