

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**

Alternatives to Pesticides

Do nothing!

“The cheapest alternative is no alternative”



Alternatives to Pesticides

Preventative measures

Prevention is better than a cure

- Design spaces that are weed unfriendly
- Use membranes under paths and paving
- Cover planting
- Mulching

Alternatives to Pesticides

The 'old fashioned' way

- Hoeing / raking
- Mowing
- Hand weeding



Alternatives to Pesticides

The 'new fashioned' way

- Hot water
- Foamstream
- Electricity
- Flame / brushing



Alternatives to Pesticides

Invasive species

- Foamstream - crassula
- Mesh tech - knotweed
- Stem injection – hogweed
- Rootwave



Alternatives to Pesticides

Developing a policy

- Political support
- 100's of towns and cities already pesticide-free



Alternatives to Pesticides

Developing a policy

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



Alternatives to Pesticides

Developing a policy

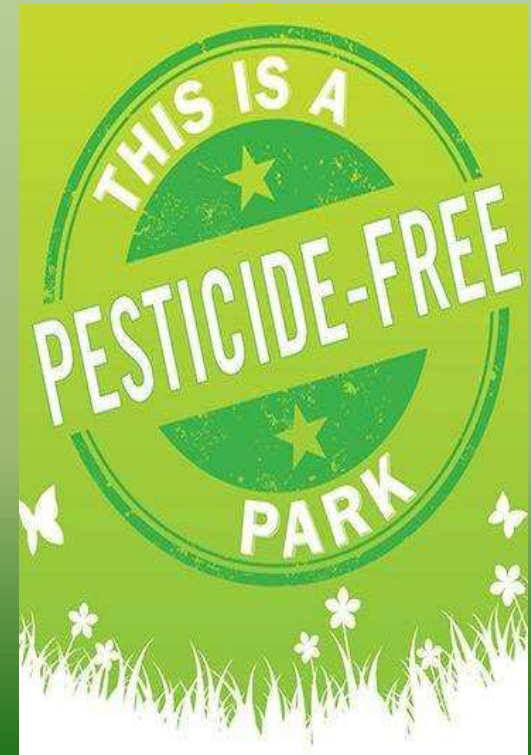
- Create a taskforce



Alternatives to Pesticides

Developing a policy

- Communicate with the public



Alternatives to Pesticides

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



Alternatives to Pesticides

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 weeders, 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



Alternatives to Pesticides

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/> and PAN Europe <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



Promoting safe and sustainable alternatives to hazardous pesticides.

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