

# BioBeo Buzz Eanáir

# 2025

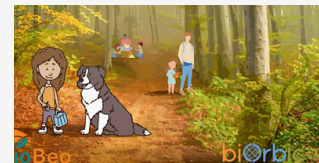
GIVING A VOICE TO ALL IN THE BIOECONOMY



Hello and Happy New Year! We are buzzing to welcome you to the first BioBeo Buzz of 2025! Let's make this a year full of sustainable choices. Get off to a great start by checking out past issues of BioBeo Buzz and checking out all the other BioBeo videos and comics [here](#). In our January edition we will be looking at sustainable new farming techniques and products. We have a great activity to help you unwind and tune into nature, courtesy of the students of Maynooth University plus we are taking AI prompts to the next level. Read on for a fun issue filled with news, activities, jokes, pics and more!

## BioBeo and BiOrbic Education Workshop!

Thu, 20 Feb 2025 14:00 – 16:30 GMT in UCD, Dublin (or Online)



### Discover the Future of Sustainability at the BioBeo and BiOrbic Bioeconomy Education Workshop!

Join us for an inspiring in-person event at **UCD Global Lounge | University College Dublin** or **participate online** to explore innovation, education, and collaboration in the bioeconomy. This interactive workshop offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of the bioeconomy while connecting with experts and like-minded individuals passionate about sustainability. We are excited to be launching a new Curlew Comic at the event. This engaging comic is titled "[Beo and Raja: Answering the Curlew's Call](#)". It was developed as part of the BiOrbic BioCultúr project between UCD and MU. Whether you're an educator, a policymaker, or simply curious about the future of sustainable living, this event is for you! [Register Here!](#)



## 21st Century Farm!



[Strawchip](#) is a family business centred around growing arable crops like wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas and oilseed rape. It is run by my brothers, Francis and Diarmuid, and myself, Gavin. It's a rural business and our goals are simple, to secure a livelihood while doing no harm to the environment we live in. As engineers and farmers we have been very creative and successful in diversifying our farm and improving biodiversity and soil health at the same time. It has been an interesting education for us all, because we have been able to try all sorts of innovations along the way.

We use organic manures to fertilise our crops, we have planted hedgerows for shelter and biodiversity. We use GPS technology to farm more efficiently and reduce costs. We use solar energy from our roofs to power our farm yards and our houses and I even have an electric car!

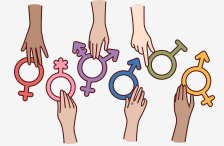
We supply a lot of our grain for use in things like whisky and food production and we process our straw into different forms for bedding and feeding. We even make pellets from straw!

Recently we became involved in projects examining the use of straw as a peat replacement, as an insulation material and as a fuel source. This is all from a material that many regard as a waste and a nuisance. To us the opportunities seem endless!

Check us out @[Strawchip.com](#)

Thanks, Gavin!





# BioBeo Glossary using AI – Does

## Gender play a role?

Last month we showed you how to create images using AI to explore some of the terms in the BioBeo Glossary. This can be a really fun way to create imagery and bring awareness to new sustainable technologies. Here at BioBeo, we have found that there are some limitations using AI to create imagery. Often, only parts of the definition would be captured in the image. Additionally, technology was only well represented alongside male characters. Female characters were often depicted in old fashioned roles!

For example, with a prompt regarding food technology, an image featuring a female would also feature a kitchen scales and not a 3D printer. Only with very detailed language would the image include technology and females.

Here is our **challenge** to you:

Can you create an image using AI that represents new sustainable food technology (like a 3D food printer) that features a woman? Send us the prompt that you used along with the image to [office@biobeo.eu](mailto:office@biobeo.eu)

Don't forget you can use Chat GPT or any other AI platform to enter your prompt. It can be a question, statement or description. You can find lots of videos on YouTube if you want more detailed instructions on creating images with AI. Best of luck! And let us know- do you think AI has any other biases?



We used Chat GPT to create this image using the prompt "A young person using a 3D food printer, printer on the table, person stands behind the table"



### Bioeconomy Matters Podcast



[Bioeconomy Matters](#) - your daily dose of sustainability! Tune in this month to hear all about art in bioeconomy!

In this episode, Dr. Ally Zlatar talks about her artistic projects and the value of using art as a tool for climate activism and as a way of reaching and educating communities, particularly those that are marginalised. Nature provides an amazing source of inspiration for art projects!



### Joke Spot



Q: As a farmer, I hear lots of jokes about sheep.  
Answer: I'd tell them to my dog, but he'd herd them all.

Q Why don't bells make good secret keepers?  
Answer: Because they always chime in.



# Nature's Wind Chimes/Clingíní Gaoithe

This article is available 'As Gaeilge' or in English below.

Scríobh Rachel Molloy, Laura Dolan, Sarah Gordon, Eimear Harrington, Chloe Murphy Menton and Rebecca Murphy an t-alt seo. Is scoláirí oideachais iad i Roinn Froebel, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad.

## Réamhrá

Úsáid rudaí nádúrtha cosúil le carraigeacha, cleití agus craobhóga ó do cheantar áitiúil! Déan teagmháil phearsanta, éicea-chairdiúil le do thimpeallacht! In éineacht leis an áilleacht a chuireann clingíní gaoithe le do cheantar, is féidir linn fuaim bhog a chloisteáil, nuair a bhíonn an ghaoth ag séideadh. Is féidir an ghníomhaíocht seo a dhéanamh i scoileanna, sa bhaile mar ghníomhaíocht teaghlach nó fiú mar dhuine fásta chun rud uathúil a chur i do ghairdín. Is féidir iad a thabhairt mar bhronntanas álainn do dhuine éigin! Tá buntáistí ag baint leis na clingíní gaoithe seo, cabhraíonn siad le do mheabhairshláinte. Úsáidtear rudaí nádúrtha chun tús áite a thabhairt do thábhacht na hinbhuanaitheachta sa ghnáthshaol gach lá agus laghdaítear an damáiste don chomhshaol i ndomhan athraitheach an lae inniu.



## Áiseanna

Sliogáin, Clocha, Téada, Bataí, Adhmaid raice, Siosúr, Druil, Lomán/Géag

## Na Céimeanna

1. Cuardaigh ábhair nádúrtha.
2. Bailigh rudaí cosúil le clocha, sliogáin, cleití, méaróga agus caora péine.
3. Aimsigh bata
4. Cén t-ord ina gcrochfaidh tú na míreanna. Smaoinigh ar na rudaí a oibreoidh go maith le chéile chun na fuaimeanna ab fhearr a chruthú.
5. Gearr téada le siosúr.
6. Ceangail na hábhair leis na téada.
7. Ceangail na téada leis na hábhair ar an mbata.
8. Ceangail téada leis an mbata
9. Croch do chlingíní gaoithe i do ghairdín.

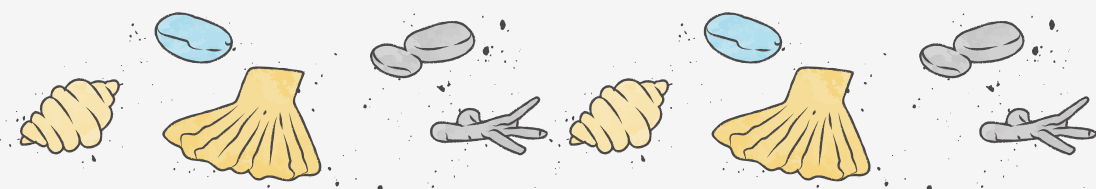


## Céimeanna breise más mian leat clingíní gaoithe a chruthú as adhmaid:

1. Bailigh lomán nó géaga i do cheantar féin.
2. Gearr an lomán ina dhioscaí.
3. Druileáil poill sna dioscaí.
4. Tarraing téad trí na poill agus ceangail na foircinn.

## Gníomhaíochtaí Breise!

- Ainmnigh na cineálacha cloch nó carraigeacha a bhailigh tú.
- Cén crann as ar tháinig do bhata?
- Tá boladh difriúil ag gach crann. Déan cinnte go mbolaíonn tú na dioscaí crainn a ghearrann tú!



# Nature's Wind Chimes/Clingíní Gaoithe

This piece was written by Rachel Molloy, Laura Dolan, Sarah Gordon, Eimear Harrington, Chloe Murphy Menton and Rebecca Murphy, students of the Froebel Department in Maynooth University.

## Introduction

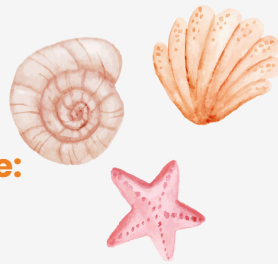
Through creating wind chimes out of natural resources it highlights how valuable and diverse life's creations can be. Using natural resources such as rocks, feathers and fallen twigs from your local surroundings adds a personal, eco-friendly touch to your environment. Alongside its beauty the wind chime provides a calming, soft sound when the breeze blows. This activity can be made in schools, at home as a family activity or even as adults to add something unique to your space. They can also be made as a beautiful gift to someone! This wind chime carries symbolic benefits as they promote mindfulness and connect you with the earth's natural elements. The use of natural resources are used to prioritise the importance of sustainability in everyday life and minimises environmental damage in today's changing world.

## Materials

Shells, Stones, String, Sticks, Driftwood, Scissors

## Extra materials if making wooden wind chime:

- Drill
- Fallen log/branch



## Steps

1. Search in a safe outdoor environment near you for different natural materials.
2. Collect things like stones, shells, feathers, pebbles and pine cones.
3. Find a stick to hang the materials from.
4. Choose what order to hang the items. Think about which items will make the best sounds against each other.
5. Cut lengths of string with some scissors.
6. Tie the materials to the string.
7. Attach the string with the materials to the stick.
8. Tie pieces of string to the stick so that it can be hung up.
9. Hang your wind chime up in your garden.



## Extra steps if making a wooden wind chime:

1. Collect a fallen log/branch from outdoors.
2. Cut it into discs
3. Drill holes into discs
4. Pull yarn through the holes and tie the ends.



## Extra activities!

- Name the types of stones/rocks you have found.
- Find out what type of tree your stick came from.
- Every type of tree has a different smell when you cut it so make sure you smell the discs of the fallen branches!





# Photography of Interconnectedness with BioBeo



These beautiful winter photos taken in the west of Ireland, showcase how nature inspires and supports the bioeconomy, connecting people, heritage and the environment in sustainable and often old ways of knowing!

**The Autograph Tree** at Coole Park, Co Galway is a majestic **copper beech tree** containing the autographs of some of the greatest supporters of Irish culture, heritage, literature and natural environment.

Do you know who signed their name? Going back in time, trees have always been at the centre of our heritage, featuring in stories, place names and much more. Find out about some of the myths and legends around Irish trees in this [webinar](#) from Green Schools.

**A robin (spideog)** spotted in the west of Ireland is seen peeping at the lens. Did you know as the Irish countryside changes, gardens are so important for many species, and it's vital for us to know how populations are faring. **The Irish Garden Bird Survey** does this not only by giving us a good idea of how our garden birds themselves are doing, but also an indication of how the environment is faring in general. It runs until the end of Feb. **Click [here](#) to participate:**

Do you have a similar survey where you live?

Not only are ruins a link to old ways of knowing, they can be specialised natural habitats of conservation for local flora and fauna. This is **O'Brien's Castle**, perched on a very high point of Inis Oírr, one of the Aran Islands, dating back to the 14th century. **Biocultúr**, part of the **BiOrbic** research centre are exploring the fascinating links between old ways of knowing and sustainability!



Following severe winds, this starfish was swept up on the beach. If a **starfish** or '**crosóg mhara**' loses an arm it can regrow it! Starfish are predators and eat mussels, oysters, sea urchins and clams. They grab onto their shells and pull until they open!

Ireland has one species of frog. We spotted this little **common frog** in some wet grass. Frogs are vital to Irish ecosystems as a **predator** of insects and other invertebrates. It is also **prey** for larger animals. It always comes back to **interconnectedness**, just like a **Bioeconomy!** Have you spotted a frog recently? If you are in Ireland, make sure to record your sighting in the "[Hop to It Frog Survey](#)," from the IPCC.

A **common seal pup** waits for its mother in the seaweed. Seals play a crucial role in maintaining balance of marine **ecosystems**, controlling fish and other populations. Their presence also supports the health of marine habitats by contributing to nutrient cycling and **promoting biodiversity**.

# Career Profiles:

**Name:** Conor Haugh

**Role:** Education Coordinator with BiOrbic



## AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOB:

As Education Coordinator with BiOrbic, the Research Ireland Centre for Bioeconomy, I help connect cutting-edge bioeconomy research with youth-focused education.

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS ROLE?

I have worked in environmental education for about 10 years. I've worked with BiOrbic for nearly two years.



## WHERE ARE YOU USUALLY BASED?

University College Dublin, but I work with young people all across the country. Depending on the day, I could be in any corner of Ireland!



## A TYPICAL DAY...

A typical day involves a mix of planning and running workshops or events, collaborating with colleagues on projects, and engaging with youth groups to support their sustainability initiatives. Some days I might be on the road visiting schools, while others I'm at my desk creating resources or writing reports.

## WHAT'S THE FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR WORK?

I love how frequently I learn something new from the young people I work with. Recently, a participant shared how fishing with his dad made him notice species and water quality declines, connecting it to what we were discussing about climate change. Moments like this, where we learn from each other, are the best part of my work.

## WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR WORK?

Given the scale of the climate crisis, it can be tough to keep young people optimistic about the impact of grassroots actions. I understand how these efforts can feel small compared to global issues, but I do believe that change comes about through such actions, and I have seen the impact they have on local communities and beyond.



## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

Now is the time to get involved! We need all types of skills and perspectives to tackle climate change and support the bioeconomy. Volunteer, join youth programmes, or seek internships to gain experience. Environmental education isn't just for scientists—it's a space where diverse skills, from art to technology, can thrive.

## BESIDES FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT SKILLS OR TRAITS ARE MOST USEFUL FOR YOUR TYPE OF WORK?

Flexibility, creativity, and the ability to communicate complex topics in an engaging way are essential. It also helps to have good organisational skills and a genuine passion for working with young people and the environment.

Learn more about BiOrbic's educational projects [here](#) or follow them on [LinkedIn](#)



## HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAREER?



In 2010, I began a biology degree out of an interest in the environment. During and after my studies, I worked in part-time, freelance, or voluntary environmental education roles. In 2019, I completed a Masters in Ecology and later worked as an ecological consultant. I soon missed interacting with young people and eventually transitioned back to build a full-time environmental education role.



Thanks for reading! You can subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter [here](#) and make sure you check out the BioBeo website by scanning the QR code! Buzz you again soon!