



IRELAND  
leave no trace

# Leave No Trace and the Marine Environment

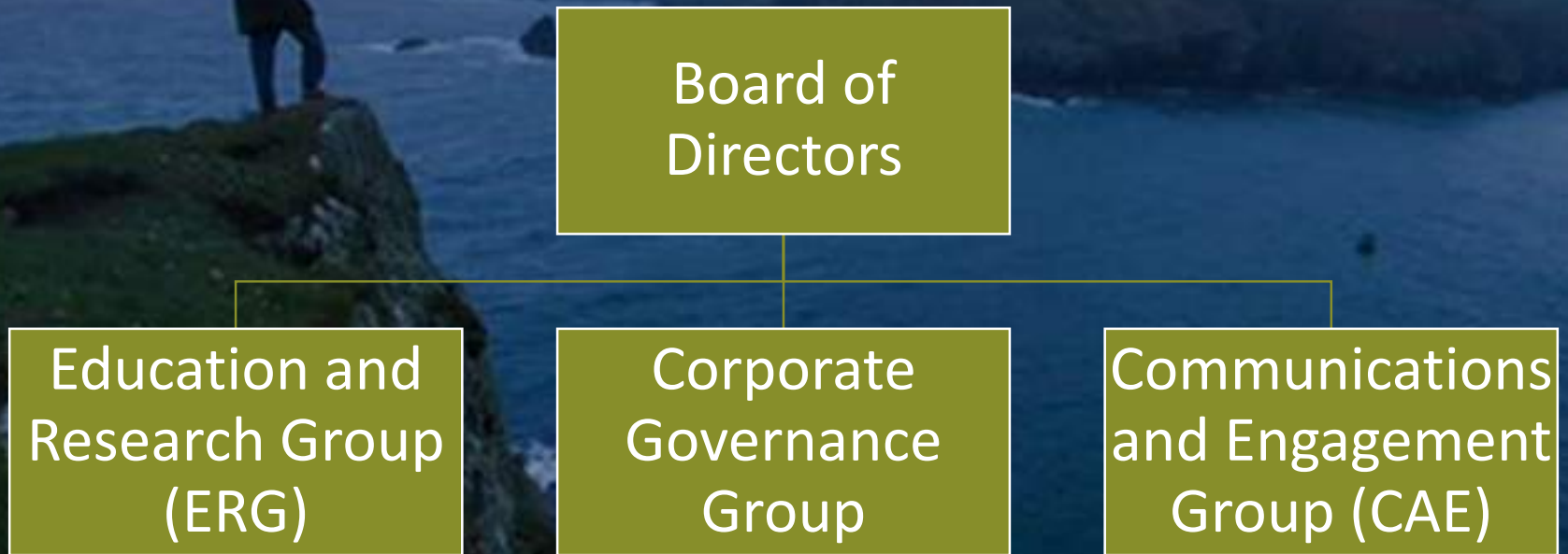
Rachel Shawe



# What is Leave No Trace?

- Registered charity
- International movement; 90 countries
- The mission of Leave No Trace is to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships across the island of Ireland

# Structure of Leave No Trace Ireland





# History of Leave No Trace



**1960s**

Originated in the USA after the Wilderness Acts



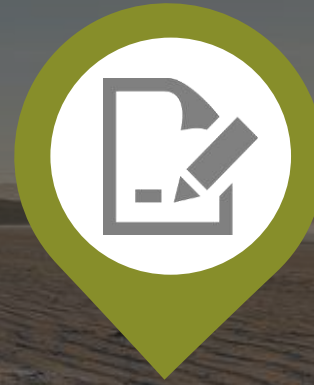
**1994**

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics established



**2008**

Leave No Trace Ireland established



**2013**

Registered charity  
1 part-time employee



**2019**

Office in Westport  
3 full-time employees  
20 trainers



# Leave No Trace Ireland Core Members



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

IEN



Irish  
Environmental  
Network

  
**COILLTE**  
GROW · TRANSFORM · SUSTAIN

  
Waterways Ireland  
Uiscebhealaí Éireann Watterweys Airlann

  
**OPW**  
The Office of Public Works  
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí



National Parks & Wildlife Service



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

# The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Be Considerate of Others
3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
4. Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
5. Leave What You Find
6. Dispose of Waste Properly
7. Minimise the Effects of Fire





# Why?

Recreational impacts occur when we spend time outdoors, but we can do something about them









Photo: Vincent Hyland

















**Zebra Mussel (Photo: Roy Anderson)**



**Water Fern (Photo: GBNNSS)**



**Floating Pennywort (Photo: GBNNSS)**



# Impacts from Outdoor Use

- **Wildlife Impacts:** disturbance, altered behaviour
- **Vegetation Impacts:** vegetation loss, the introduction of invasive species
- **Water Resource Impacts:** siltation, sedimentation
- **Cultural Resource Impacts:** congestion, theft or damage to cultural features
- **Soil Impacts:** soil compaction
- **Social Impacts:** crowding, conflicts between groups

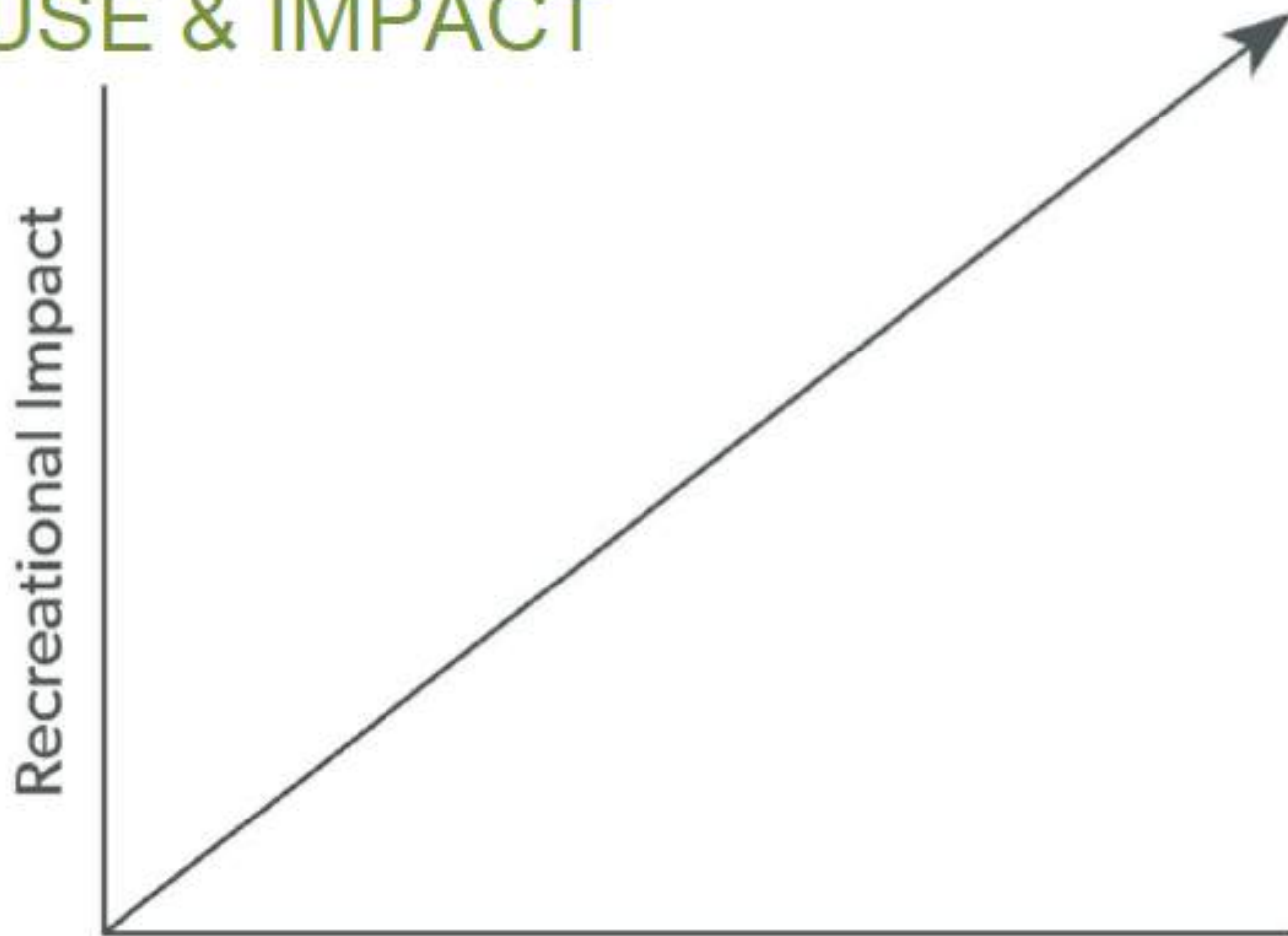




# Science-based

Science-based, simple & effective, relevant for everyone, and for your countryside to urban parks to the coast

# HYPOTHETICAL RELATIONSHIP: USE & IMPACT



Recreational Use

(Hammitt and Cole 1998)



# Leave No Trace is the Solution

Limiting impacts that come with increased use



# The Leave No Trace Spectrum



FEW  
IMPACTS

SIGNIFICANT  
IMPACTS



An aerial photograph of four kayakers in a dark blue sea. They are wearing colorful gear (red, yellow, blue) and orange helmets. The kayakers are positioned in a loose line, moving towards the right. The foreground shows dark, jagged rocks. The text 'The Power of Leave No Trace' is overlaid in white, centered over the kayakers.

# The Power of Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace education provides a  
nationwide outdoor ethic for all



# Leave No Trace Approach

- Educate, Connect, Protect:
  - We **educate** people about minimum impact skills and responsible outdoor recreation. We do this through research
  - We **connect** people to their natural world so that they care about its future health
  - We **protect** the environment by upskilling people on how to minimise their impacts while they are spending time outside



# Training

Leave No Trace offers training opportunities across Ireland

**AWARENESS  
WORKSHOP**



**TRAINER  
COURSE**



**ADVANCED  
TRAINER  
COURSE**



30 minutes to full day  
introductory workshop



2-day field course  
resulting in certificate  
of completion



Intensive 5-day field  
course resulting in  
ability to teach  
trainer courses



# Marine Explorers Programme

- Deliver on behalf of the Marine Institute
- County's Mayo, Sligo and Donegal
  - Seashore Safari
  - Explorers Project – Marine Biodiversity









# River Explorers Programme

- In partnership with Waterways Ireland
- School programme aimed at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class
- Aim is to:
  - Increase understanding and respect of natural heritage
  - Increase awareness of river biodiversity
  - Foster sense of stewardship for the local waterway
  - Raise awareness around impacts we have on our waterways and how we can minimise these effects



# River Explorers Programme





# Leave No Trace Skills and Ethics for Water Sports Groups

- New Leave No Trace training programme
- Piloted in Co. Donegal
- Educational workshops and resources including;
  - New training course specifically for water sports groups – inland and coastal
  - Training toolkit for trainers
  - Technical tips





ENJOY THE  
OUTDORS.  
LEAVE NO  
TRACE.



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