

Arney Wise Use of Water Scheme (AWUWS)

BACKGROUND

Situated in the North West of Ireland, Fermanagh boasts one of the most uncongested lakes in Europe – Lough Erne. The Erne is made up of two channels, the lower and the upper Loughs. The beautiful County of Fermanagh is a visitor's paradise with wide stretches of island dotted Waterway and secluded bays surrounded by a patchwork of green fields, soft undulating hillsides and fresh forests.

The Arney River is one of fourteen tributaries to Lough Erne.



PROBLEMS

- Water quality is the most pressing issue within the Erne catchment
- Estimated pollution loadings
 - 50 – 60% from agriculture
 - <30% from industrial wastewater
 - <15% from domestic septic tanks
- Although nitrate levels in surface waters in N Ireland are low, agriculture is responsible for a relative contribution of 92% of nitrates pollution at Lough Erne
- The whole of N Ireland has recently been declared a 'Total Territory' Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
- Agriculture's relative contribution to phosphate levels in Lough Erne is 73% of the total

SOLUTIONS

- The Killesher Community Development Association (KCDA) successfully applied for and received funding through the **EU Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme**. The Project was delivered to premises throughout the Arney River catchment area.
- Project objectives: to target agricultural, industrial and domestic premises – encouraging better water management and reducing point source pollution.
- Methodology:
 - Repair/ replace agricultural building roof drainage systems;
 - Construct roofing to cattle roaming areas and animal waste storage areas;
 - Divert the entry of storm water to underground slurry tanks;
 - Install horizontal reed beds;
 - Construct agricultural vehicle wash bays ;
 - Install integral oil fuel storage tanks;
 - Refurbish existing spring or well water sources;
 - Collect rainwater from building roofs.

BENEFITS

- Pollution Control/ Reduction
 - Prevention of storm water run-off to polluted areas and subsequent discharge to watercourses;
 - More effective animal waste storage capacity;
 - Water quality from septic tanks and farmyard run-off improved;
 - Reduce pollution to watercourses.
- Water Conservation
 - Supply of newly restored/ collected water sources for farming uses.

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