

Advancing environmental justice for a peaceful society, a healthier democracy, the rights of nature and a sustainable economy

'Environmental issues cannot continue to go ignored and with the EJNI we have enhanced support for communities seeking environmental justice.'

Cllr Peter McReynolds,  
Deputy Lord Mayor, Belfast  
City Council

'Clearing in the clouds! Shining a light into dark places may seem like an uphill struggle at times but campaigning communities can now look forward to the cooperation and support of academics and legal experts as Environmental Justice Network Ireland announces its launch.'

Rostrevor Action Respecting  
the Environment



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## EJNI Launch

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Aarhus Convention, the Environmental Justice Network Ireland (EJNI) was launched in the Ulster Museum, Belfast.

We were overwhelmed by the interest in the network and by the range of stakeholders who travelled to attend its launch. Academics, environmental campaigners, NGOs, the media, members of the legal profession, representatives from local and central government as well as politicians from across the political spectrum and from both sides of the border in Ireland travelled to attend the launch. A film documenting the event is available [here](#).

[Dr Ciara Brennan](#) from Newcastle Law School explained the key drivers behind the establishment of EJNI, focusing on the rise of grassroots environmental campaigning, unease about the impact Brexit may have on environmental protection on the island of Ireland and the need to enhance collaboration between environmental stakeholders and across the Irish border. She also highlighted the need to develop evidence-based directions for reform and design transdisciplinary academic research agendas that reflect the needs of different stakeholder groups. With the help of our IT Support team, Ciara then demonstrated the features of the EJNI website ([ejni.net](#)) and explained to delegates how they could contribute to the project. Finally, Ciara highlighted EJNI's plans to hold its next seminar in November 2019.

[Dr Peter Doran](#) from Queen's University Belfast then presented delegates with a history of movement-building around the concept of environmental justice, before introducing our keynote speaker, [Dr Andrew Jackson](#) of University College Dublin. Andrew gave an inspirational speech covering the nature of the climate emergency, the emergence of strategic environmental litigation (in particular his experience with [Climate Case Ireland](#)) and the role of the Aarhus Convention in liberalising access to environmental justice in Ireland. In his opinion, '*the Environmental Justice Network looks set to play a vital contribution to the public discourse around urgent, ambitious environmental action, and at just the right time*'. Andrew's full speech is now available to watch [here](#).

Our speeches concluded with a rousing analysis of the challenges facing environmental justice campaigners in Ireland today from [Dean Blackwood](#), comments from the audience and [James Orr](#) from Friends of the Earth NI highlighting the importance of the new network in helping to '*advance environmental justice for a peaceful society, a healthier democracy, the rights of nature and a sustainable economy*'. We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the launch event and look forward to working with you all in the future.

EJNI Steering Group  
[Dr Ciara Brennan](#), [James Orr](#), [Dean Blackwood](#) and [Dr Peter Doran](#)

## Contribute to the EJNI website

[ejni.net](http://ejni.net)

### REGISTER A PROFILE OR TELL A STORY

To register a profile or campaign story on EJNI (either for an organisation or an individual), please email a profile picture or logo, a summary of key information (2 page max please) and any resources you would like to include to: [register@ejni.net](mailto:register@ejni.net)

### SUBMIT A RESOURCE

To submit a suggestion for a useful resource, please email a link or document to [submit@ejni.net](mailto:submit@ejni.net)

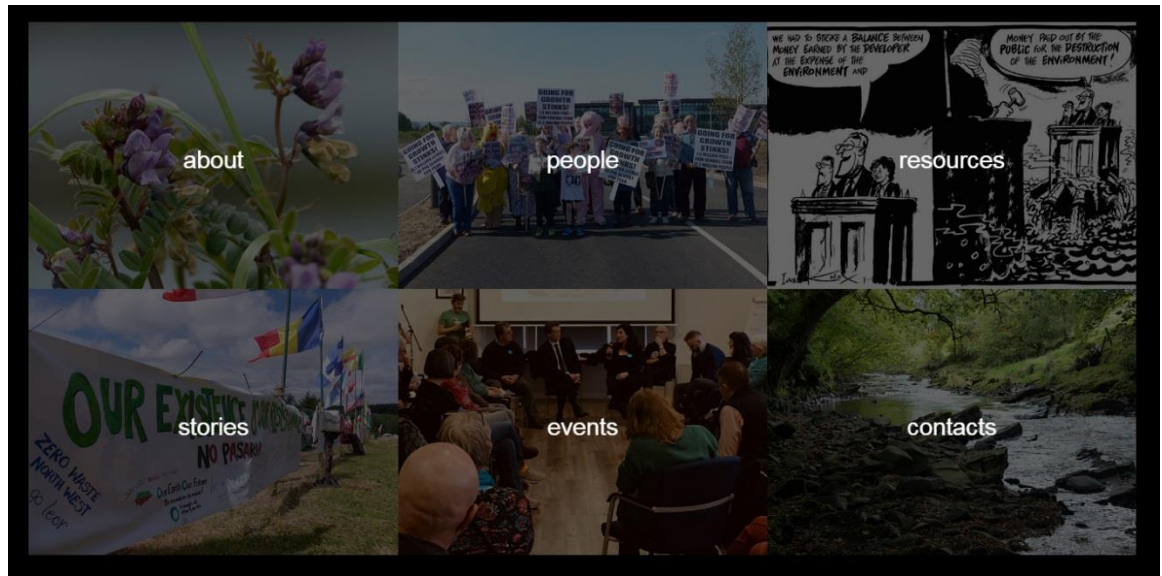
### ADVERTISE AN EVENT/RESEARCH PROJECT

To submit details of an event of interest please email details to [admin@ejni.net](mailto:admin@ejni.net)

*The steering group reserves the right to decline any material considered unsuitable for the website. We will update and request permission from contributors should we decide editorial changes to a submission are necessary. The author will retain full copyright of material submitted. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure copyright requirements are complied with.*

# EJNI

## EJNI Website



A key goal of the EJNI website is to act as a collaborative resource for a wide range of environmental stakeholders. We hope this resource will help fill existing gaps in knowledge about the different roles that individuals, organisations and government bodies are playing in the pursuit of environmental justice objectives. The website has a number of sections to which stakeholders can contribute.

Our ['People'](#) page provides a platform for individuals and organisations to present a profile of their work. For academics this can include a bibliography of relevant resources as well as full-text versions of publications, blogs and reports. It can also include links to personal research web pages at academic institutions. For legal professionals this can include profiles of interests, details of availability, previous experience,

pro bono work and contact details. For scrutiny bodies, the profile can contain details of ongoing investigations and past reports. For NGOs, summaries of past and ongoing campaigns and projects, as well as consultation responses and newsletters can be featured. For government bodies, policies, consultation and public engagement exercises can be featured as well as links to press releases about government-led initiatives, environmental reporting or successes.

The ['Stories'](#) page will centre around an interactive map which will provide details of environmental justice campaigns across the island of Ireland. We encourage campaigners and local groups to submit their testimonies and photos, regardless of the ultimate success of the campaign. Once developed, this feature of the website will act as an archive and history of environmental justice

environmental campaigning on the island of Ireland.

The ['Resources'](#) section of the website is organised thematically. This is intended to act as a research resource both for any stakeholder groups with interests in these areas. We currently have six thematic areas: extractivism, environmental governance, nature, rights of nature/rights of communities, intensive farming and legal process. We welcome suggestions for both new thematic areas and for resources to add to existing themes.

The ['Events'](#) section will contain details about past and future EJNI events, including pictures, videos and documents where appropriate. Stakeholders can also submit details of events which may be of wider interest to website users to feature on both the website and in the newsletter. We plan to develop a Calendar function as details of more events are submitted.



## Contacts

### INFORMATION

For any general enquiries about EJNI or to receive information about future events and activities, please email:

[info@ejni.net](mailto:info@ejni.net)

To contact a member of the steering group directly, please email:

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Dean Blackwood

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# Participate

## EJNI Events

In November 2019, EJNI will host its second event in Derry-Londonderry. The theme of EJNI#2 will be 'Transboundary Environmental Justice on the Island of Ireland'. This half-day seminar will include interactive sessions on cross-border environmental governance on the island of Ireland and transboundary strategic litigation. Speakers, venue and ticket information will be confirmed in the next EJNI Newsletter. The event will be free of charge to attendees but tickets will be required.

## New Resources

As the project develops, new resources will be added to the website. This month's highlights include:

- Films documenting the EJNI launch @ the Ulster Museum 25.06.19 & Dr Andrew Jackson's full speech, available [here](#).
- Resource lists for [extractivism](#) and [environmental governance](#).
- Full text or links to academic research from [Dr Ciara Brennan](#) (Newcastle Law School) and [Dr Peter Doran](#) (Queens University Belfast).
- Newsletters and selection of consultation responses from [Friends of the Earth NI](#)
- [Profile of KRW Law LLP](#), one of Ireland's leading public interest law firms.

## Research

A key goal of the EJNI is to raise awareness of research being undertaken into environmental justice and related issues on the island of Ireland. To feature an ongoing research project in our newsletter or on our website please contact [admin@ejni.net](mailto:admin@ejni.net). Current projects seeking participants include:

### • Stakeholder Evaluation of Planning Survey

A team of researchers from Queen's University Belfast and Cardiff University have launched a major survey that seeks to capture what a wide range of stakeholders think about the planning systems of N Ireland, Rep of Ireland & Wales. The research is designed to not only contribute to the development of academic research into planning theory and evaluation, but also to directly inform the discussion, design and delivery of planning policy and the governance, resourcing and regulation of development. A report of the findings will be freely available in early 2020.

If you are a planner, councillor, developer, citizen or have any other interest in planning, please take some time to help by completing the survey [here](#) by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Evaluation of Planning Project, Queen's University Belfast  
c/o Dr Jenny Crawford:  
[e.crawford@qub.ac.uk](mailto:e.crawford@qub.ac.uk)

### • Effectiveness of EIAs in Northern Ireland (QUB)

Stephen McIlveen is currently undertaking a Masters Dissertation at the School of Natural and Built Environment. The survey is available [here](#) and is open until 31st July 2019.

## Consultations

Highlighting ways of influencing the development of environmental and planning law and policy to a wider range of stakeholders is another important part of the EJNI project. Current consultations of interest include:

- The Department of the Economy in NI is currently consulting on whether to award petroleum licences to facilitate fracking in a number of locations. The consultations are available [here](#) and are open until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. Submissions from Friends of the Earth NI are available [here](#).
- A number of County Councils in ROI are currently consulting on Climate Change Adaptation Strategies, available [here](#).

## Acknowledgements

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