

For Peat's Sake



3%

Globally peat covers 3% of the land's surface but stores one third of the earth's soil carbon.



Upland peat is between 1 – 2 meters deep. In Ireland, peatlands store 1085 mega tonnes of carbon.



What is a blanket bog?

Blanket bogs are made from peat- the partially decomposed remains of plants laid down over centuries on flat or gently sloping ground.



8%

8% of the world's blanket bog are in Ireland.



A healthy, growing bog must have water within 10cm of the surface for 90% of the year



90%

Peat is 90% water and only 10% solid material.

85%

85% of Irelands peatlands have been lost



Irish blanket bogs are among the best in Europe for plant and animal life.

Why are blanket bogs important?



A 15cm thick peat layer contains more carbon per hectare than a tropical forest.



68% of Irish people get their drinking water from peatland catchments.



Bogs prevent flooding because they can hold 20 times their own weight in water.



Blanket bog habitat supports protected species like hen harriers, snipe & red grouse.



CANN
COLLABORATIVE ACTION
for the NATURA NETWORK

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Threats to blanket bogs come from drying out the peat by:



Peat harvesting/
turf cutting



Peat erosion



Unmanaged/
unregulated
burning



Overgrazing



Scrubbing up with
trees and alien
invasives like
rhododendron



Afforestation

What can we do to protect the bog?



Control/
regulate peat
and turf cutting
especially
sausage cutting
machine



Control cattle
grazing.
Extensive, free
ranging animals
are best



Control
heather
burning



Use a wildfire
management
plan



Don't use peat
products in
your garden



Don't plant
conifers on
upland peat

Alternative fuel sources to cut turf



Locally grown
timber



Wood pellets



Solar panels
or heat pumps
(grants
available)

What can we do to Restore the bog?



Drain blocking
to raise the
bog's water
table.



Remove
scrub and
rhododendron



Repairing erosion
scars like peat
hags by reprofiling
– making slopes
gentler so plants
can grow