

# 2023 National Radon Forum

## Library loan scheme of digital monitors: Wexford scheme and launch in County Cork libraries

Leo McKittrick

EPA – Citizen Science & Radon

Clayton Silversprings Hotel, Cork

4<sup>th</sup> October 2023



**BORROWING  
A DIGITAL  
RADON  
MONITOR  
FROM YOUR  
LIBRARY**

# Strategic Actions

## **National Radon Control Strategy (Action 22):**

- Continue to work to normalise the testing for and remediation of radon through measures such as:
  - Exploring the potential impact of digital monitors to nudge action.

## **EPA Strategy (2022 – 2026):**

- Our communications will have moved beyond awareness raising to actively engaging and empowering people to change behaviour

# Behaviour Change

## EPA research shows:

- Of those that tested high, only one in five reduce their radon exposure!



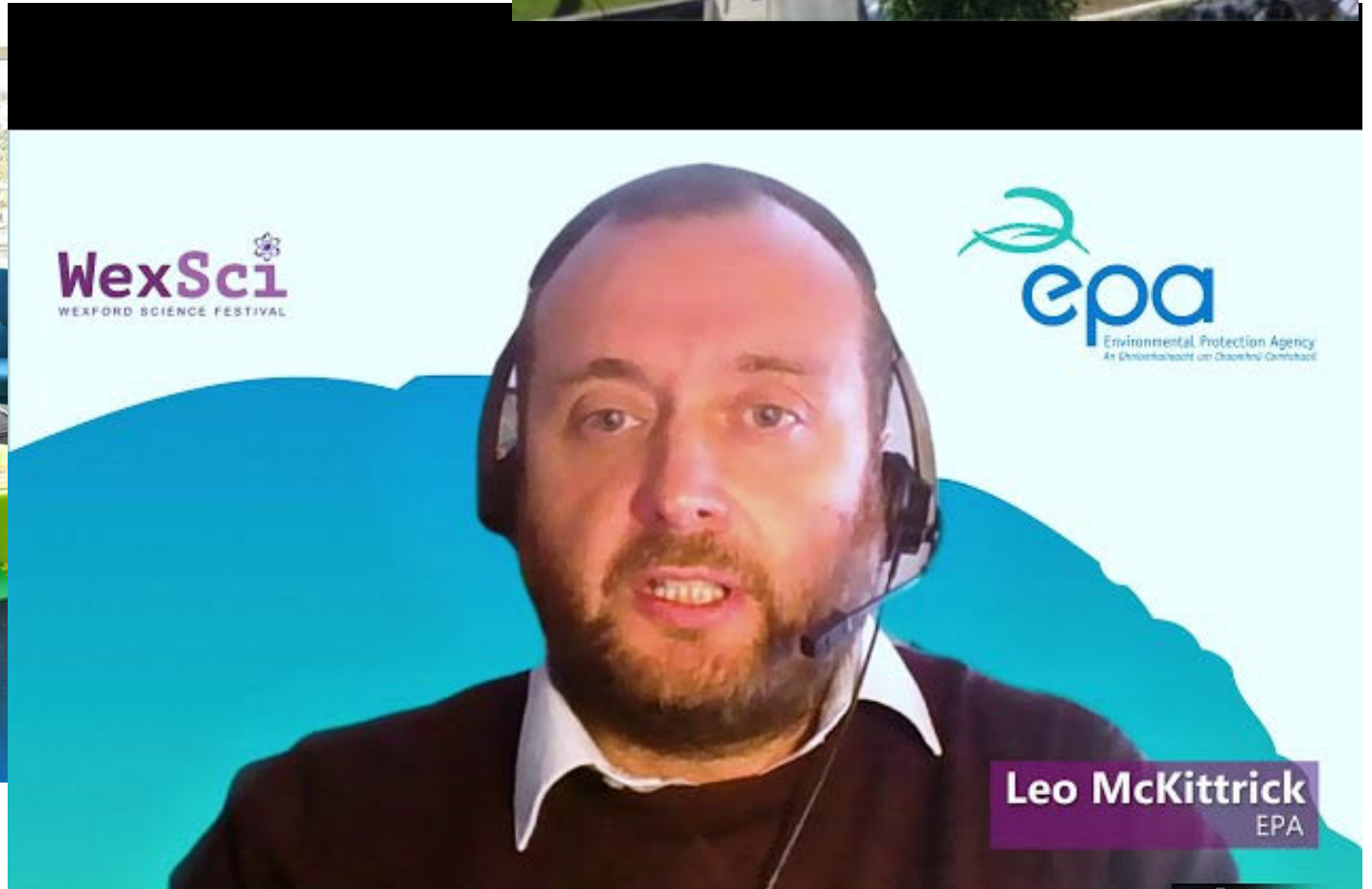
# Background – 2019 Pilot via Bunclody

WexSci



WEXFORD SCIENCE  
8<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER





# Collaborations are key



**Public Library Service**

**Wexford County Council**

[www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries)

Wexford County Council Public Library Service / LibCal Study Seat Booking and Events / Wexford Public Libraries Events

### Understanding Radon – What it is, the health risk and what you can do.

**In-Person**

Two public meetings will take place in New Ross library on the 28th June on the topic of radon gas. Exposure to radon gas in Ireland is linked to 350 lung cancer cases each year in Ireland so it is a significant public health hazard.

The meetings are hosted by Wexford Public Libraries, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and supported by Healthy Wexford. Come along and you can meet experts in radon and find out straightforward and practical ways of protecting your family from radon.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Register online or phone: 051 421877. An email reminder will be sent to you email address prior to the event. Please check in at library desk before the event commences.

**Date:** Tuesday, June 28, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
**Time Zone:** UK, Ireland, Lisbon Time (change)

**Event Organizer**

**New Ross Library**

Contact Details for New Ross Library  
Address Barrack Lane, New Ross, Co. Wexford, Y34 N095  
Phone +353 51 421877  
Email [newrosslib@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:newrosslib@wexfordcoco.ie)  
Librarian Yvonne Smith

400 borrowed to date!



Healthy  
**Wexford**

# Borrowing a Digital Radon Monitor – What's it all about?

- For library members – It's just like borrowing a book.....

A digital radon monitor is shown against a background of colorful houses. The monitor's screen displays the following information:

LONG TERM AVERAGE	71 pCi/L
SHORT TERM AVERAGE	8 pCi/L

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The logo for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is located at the bottom of the graphic. It consists of a stylized leaf symbol above the lowercase letters "epa", with the full name "Environmental Protection Agency" and the tagline "A commitment to a healthier world" in smaller text below.

# Reducing your radon levels

- EPA research shows that, of those that test high, only one in five reduce their radon exposure
- Of the 500 high homes tested in Wexford (about) 100 have remediated
- Primary objective: Invited those that have already tested above 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> to borrow a monitor with their library card for 3-4 weeks
  - First testers!
  - Public Engagement + Awareness Raising





# Use of the digital monitor

Digital monitors are useful:

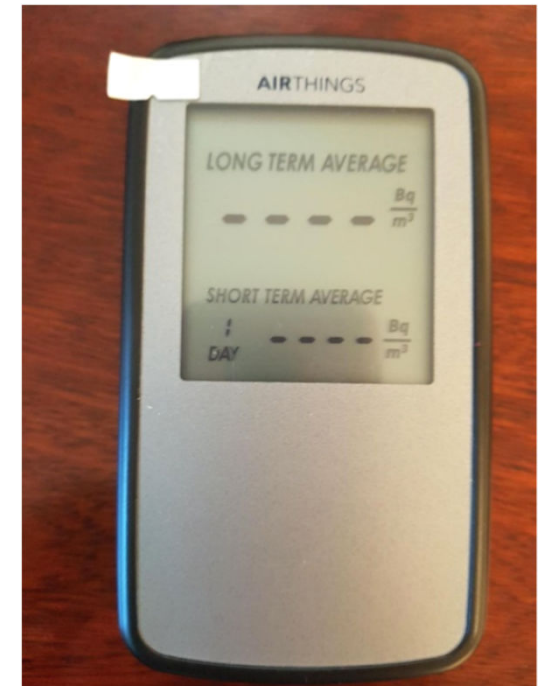
- To get a quick snapshot of the radon levels in your home
- If you have already carried out a three-month (certified) test to confirm radon is still high, or
- Following remediation work, to confirm it has been successful

**The results of these short tests are not a replacement for a three-month measurement (an indicative value)**



# Use of the digital monitor

- Short Demonstration!



# Use of the digital monitor

- Use the monitor in either your kitchen or living room for loan period (3-4 weeks)
- Don't place the monitor on the ground, near a door or window or in a damp area
- After 3-4 weeks, record the long-term average reading on the monitor before returning it to the library (THE USER!)
- Library staff reset the monitor for next user (removing all records of your data)



high reading

great information

instruction

library staff

excellent service

information

service

# Further Projects



**RadoNorm**  
Managing risks from radon and NORM

EPA Ireland Retweeted

**Healthy Wexford** @HealthyWexford · Jun 28

Lots of engagement at today's lunchtime talk on Understanding Radon. The next talk is happening at 7pm, contact New Ross Library to book on 051-421877.

Event hosted by @wexlibraries, in partnership with @EPAireland & supported by @HealthyWexford

#radon #radonawareness #event

A group of six people (three men and three women) are standing in a library. They are holding small blue and white informational brochures. In the background, there are bookshelves and a large screen displaying information. The man in the center is wearing a dark suit and a mayoral chain.

Wexford County Council and Healthylreland

5 9

# RadoNorm

- In Wexford: As a citizen scientist, they helped co-design and test a Do It Yourself (DIY) remediation toolkit working with the EPA and a radon remediation contractor.
  - Interlinked with a wider EU project (partners)
  - Project funding (support for remediation work)
  - 3-month tests (Pre & Post remediation)
  - Engagement & Awareness Raising

# DIY Toolkit – citizen engagement!



# Campile Area Development Group

invite you to attend

## Healthy Home Environments

*A series of information sessions to help make your home a healthier environment to live in – from preventative health actions to ensuring healthy living spaces*

Session 2

### The Air We Breathe

**FREE  
Community  
Event**

Considering ventilation and potential health challenges of the air in our homes, this information session will include a focus on Radon – what it is and why it may be harmful.



This session also includes the opportunity to borrow a radon monitor on the evening\*, through New Ross Library, to check radon levels in your home.



**18<sup>th</sup> October - 7.30-9pm  
At Campile Hall**

*\*limited numbers available  
If you are not a library member, bring  
along proof of address and photo ID to  
sign up on the evening*

**No booking required - Refreshments served**

This is session one of four information sessions on a range of topics. See our facebook page or chat to the committee for more information on remaining sessions

Supported by:



Healthy  
**Wexford**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



*'The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health'*



# And Next!

- Scheme now available across Cork County Council (library) networks – 25 libraries & 4 mobile libraries
- Collaboration – EPA & Cork County Council (Training workshop: 28<sup>th</sup> September)



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# More information

Wexford Library

EPA staff members

[www.radon.ie](http://www.radon.ie)

EPA's 24/7 Free Phone (1800 300 600)

[radon@epa.ie](mailto:radon@epa.ie) query services



Thank you  
for your  
attention!



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council