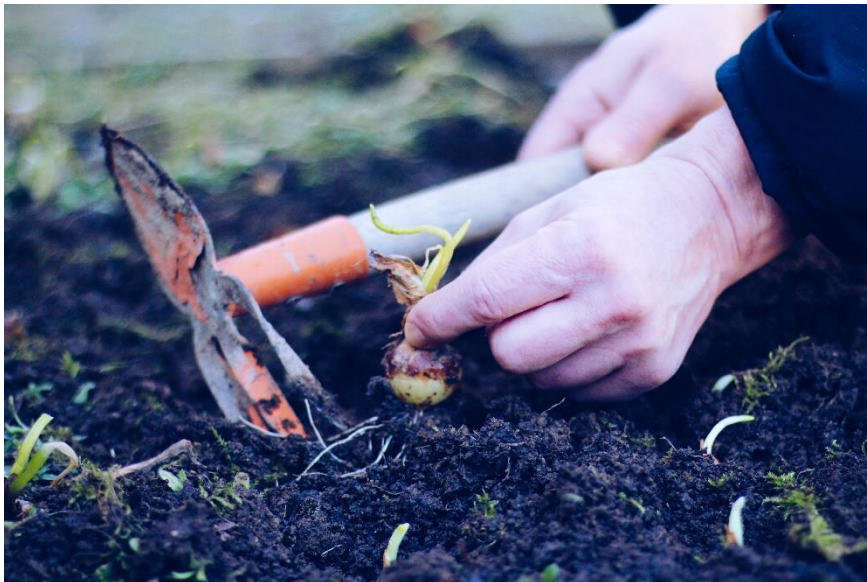




# REPORT

**Green Foundation Ireland**  
invites you to an evening online TALK by  
**Klaus Laitenberger**

## **Climate-Smart Gardening**



**Venue:** **by Zoom** *(details given after registration)*  
**Monday 7 March 2022 – 19:00 to 20:00**

Admission to this event is **FREE** but you **MUST** register beforehand.  
You can do so through **our Eventbrite page here**

This talk forms part of Green Foundation Ireland's project,  
*"Our Soil Underfoot – Protecting our underground life".*

# Climate-Smart Gardening

## THEME

This talk gave practical tips on how to improve your soil fertility, make good compost and thus bring the carbon back into the soil where it belongs. Few people realise that atmospheric carbon can be brought into soils. We also explored some of the ways that conventional food production causes climate change – soy bean production equals rainforest destruction. There were also tips on how to improve the biodiversity in your garden.

***This event formed part of Green Foundation Ireland's project  
"Our Soil Underfoot – Protecting our underground life".***

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

**Klaus Laitenberger:** Klaus is the author of three gardening books: *Vegetables for the Irish Garden*; *Fruit and Vegetables for the Polyunnel and Greenhouse*; and *A Vegetable Grower's Handbook*. He works as an Organic Inspector for the Organic Trust Limited and as an consultant for a number of organic market garden start-ups. Previously, he was the Head Gardener at the Organic Centre in County Leitrim, and restored the gardens of Lissadell House in County Sligo.



Together with his wife Joanna, they started a seed company, Green Vegetable Seeds, specialising in the most suited vegetable varieties for the Irish climate as well as the most resistant and delicious ones.

He is contributor to various gardening magazines, for example: *The Irish Garden*, *Irish Examiner*, *GIY magazine* and *Clover*. Klaus also works as an organic advisor and runs gardening courses throughout the country.

You can find out [more about Green Vegetable Seeds here](#).

## ABOUT OUR FACILITATOR AND OUR MODERATOR

**Donna Mullen:** Chair of Green Foundation Ireland, Donna is an environmentalist and works as an ecologist, drawing up nature trails and sustainability plans. Her work involves spending many happy hours surveying buildings for bats, and she helped draw up the guidelines on bat surveys for the Heritage Council (Traditional Farm Building Scheme). She is a founder member of both Bat Conservation Ireland and the Irish Environmental Network, and has also served on the board of the Irish Wildlife Trust.

**Claire Downey:** Claire, who is a Director of Green Foundation Ireland, is Policy and Research Director at the Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun in Dublin. Claire worked magic behind the scenes with live-streaming our talk (for the first time!) to those who could not attend by Zoom.

You can [access our video of the talk here](#).

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## ABOUT OUR TALK

Klaus emphasised the importance of engaging with gardening and with nature, and not simply engaging on a theoretical basis. He outlined to us the threats facing soils, and the current status of soil health around the world.

He also detailed the importance of soil organic content and how to improve it, the benefits of engaging with gardening, as well as several methods of having a climate-friendly garden. In particular, he informed us how to make the best compost possible, how to create Benjes hedges, and told us about Hügelkultur.

Klaus also mentioned about the potential for soils to combat climate change via carbon sequestration, and told us about some great plant species, such as Jerusalem Artichokes, which sequester carbon effectively!

With over 130 people registering to attend and 63 people participating on the day, this extremely popular talk was a wonderful opportunity for people interested in gardening and sustainable horticulture to get first-hand advice and feedback from an expert in the field.

What was particularly encouraging was that 13 of these people had questions to ask, showing a high level of audience engagement. People asked questions on a wide variety of topics, and Klaus gave informative feedback to all.

***Green Foundation Ireland***

***31 March 2022***