

Joanne Butler

OURganic Gardens



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After her children were born, Joanne wanted to grow her own organic food to feed her family and was inspired by her success to share what she learned with those in her community.

As a result, Joanne set up OURganic Gardens as an outreach educator in the community gardens around Donegal. In 2017, she wanted to expand and run education workshops from her home in Gortahork, Co Donegal.

To make this dream a reality, she turned her home and garden into an educational space where people can come and learn about horticulture, permaculture, growing food and being outdoors.

OURganic Gardens now runs outdoor garden classes and hosts topic-specific workshops. The business gives people the opportunity to get outdoors and to learn organic holistic techniques that they can use to grow their own food at home.

The OURganic Gardens space – with stunning views of the mountains and surrounding landscape – is also available for rent to businesses who want to create their own workshops onsite.

Joanne really enjoyed her experience with ACORNS and found the advice and validation throughout the workshops invaluable. In fact, she is still in touch with the ladies in her ACORNS group and her Lead Entrepreneur is still part of her business journey.

Joanne plans to build on the success of OURganic Gardens by launching one-on-one consultations and a variety of new online courses in spring 2021. One of the new online courses will cover planning, and there will also be a view on demand garden course.

Joanne also has big dreams for the future, one of which is to open a tea room and craft shop beside her educational garden and home.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine