

Sheila Murphy

Beo Ecology



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BEO
ECOLOGY

Sheila Murphy left her role as a senior ecologist with an engineering consultancy to set up her own ecological services business, Beo Ecology, in August 2021.

The native of Shrule, Co Mayo, where her business is also based, says she established herself as self-employed as it was something she was always interested in pursuing. She also wanted to go in a different direction within ecology – having typically worked as an ecologist on larger construction projects, she felt being self-employed would offer the ability to work on a greater variety of project types, both large and small.

Beo Ecology provides ecological services to private companies, local authorities and members of the public. This work involves habitat assessments, mammal surveys, environmental reporting, and working with community groups on biodiversity action plans.

Sheila initially tested the water for her business by reducing her hours in her role with the engineering consultancy while working part time for herself providing horticulture workshops.

She says getting the business up and running was relatively straightforward and that she was fortunate to have very good mentors and support from past employers who provided her with contract opportunities.

Having left a work environment where she always had a team and experienced line managers supporting her regarding advice and guidance, Sheila found that ACORNS gave her a lot of support and confidence to promote her business. She says the programme was a very positive experience.

Sheila's future plans for the business are to continue to work on positive projects that are beneficial for the environment while increasing her community work and growing her client base. She hopes to hire a field surveyor in the first half of 2023 to help her cope with peak demand for her services between April and September.

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