



E-BULLETIN

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education
and Youth Organisation



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Opportunities

We're currently hiring for a Operations and Development Manager, see the [full details on our website](#)

ECO-UNESCO Clubs

Want to set up an environmental club? Contact us to find out how you can start an [ECO-UNESCO Club](#) in your school, community or youth group. We'll help you out with resources and support to help make your club a success.

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Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Director's Message



As we reach the end of another busy year there are many reasons to be cheerful about the progress made in 2017. This year, over 10,700 young people from across the island of Ireland got involved with us to learn more about the environment and taking action to protect it.

The Young Environmentalist Awards Final was the biggest to date, with over 4,000 young people across the island of Ireland playing their part in protecting and raising awareness about the environment. The registration for the YEA 2018 remains open until the 20th December so there's still time to get involved!

Our Youth for Sustainable Development programme continues to engage and empower young people to become peer educators and global youth leaders. This December we are excited to launch the programme in Carlow and Drogheda, with more locations to be announced in 2018!

In 2017 we have also been busy internationally as we continued to develop links with UNESCO through our work on the Global Action Plan, and were honoured to run a GAP Flagship Youth Leadership programme earlier this year. We also ran a Transnational Environmental Youth Summit in November for over 50 young people from across Ireland and Europe.

Our other programmes have also had a busy period of workshops and youth action! I hope you enjoy reading what's been happening in this update. On behalf of all at ECO-UNESCO I wish you a very Merry Christmas and the very best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2018.

Until next time be sure to keep up to date on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [website](#).

Elaine Nevin
National Director

Youth for Sustainable Development launches in Carlow and Drogheda

We're delighted to share the details of the first Youth for Sustainable Development regional

launches in Carlow and Meath/Louth in December. There will be a public Q&A session and Information night for the new **Meath/Louth** group in the Boomerang Café in Drogheda on December 13th at 4.30pm. The **Carlow Information evening** will be taking place in on December 18th at 5pm in The Vault, Carlow Regional Youth Service. Anyone interested in volunteering or taking part or who'd like to find out more is welcome to attend.

Registration is now open for participants (15-18) and volunteers (18+) who would like to support the development of this programme.

Contact Allison/Kieran at YSDOutreach@ecounesco.ie for more information, or [click here](#).

Young Environmentalist Awards 2018 deadline



There is still time for you to get involved in Ireland's biggest celebration of youth eco action!

The deadline to register for the Young Environmentalist Awards 2018 is the 20th of December. It's still not too late to get involved, groups have until the end of February 2018 to carry out their project - but you need to act fast!

[Click here to register your group and to find out more.](#)

Youth for Sustainable Development planning their YEA projects

As we approach the end of the year, the YSD group in Dublin have been getting stuck into some really cool activities. Last week they spent the entire session exploring conflict resolution through ECO-UNESCO's National Park Negotiations Activity. This simulation requires participants to mediate a disagreement and come to a consensus that each group is happy with. Thankfully the group met with an agreement after nearly two hour of intense debate!





Picture: Participants locked in intense negotiations during a Wednesday session

Some YSD participants attended an advisory group for the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), hosted by the Department of Education and Skills. The young people in attendance spoke passionately about their opinions and beliefs and made a number of recommendations to the group. They have also made a written submission to the Department of Education and Skills as part of their mid-term review of the ESD Strategy 2014-2020.

Youth Worker training in January

In January, Dave, the coordinator of Eco-Choices will be delivering training in innovative environmental education methods to youth workers. If you would like to learn up-to-date information about the environment, and exciting methods of engaging young people with these issues, the training for youth workers will take place on the **16th of January**, in the ECO-UNESCO office at 9 Burgh Quay in Dublin 2. Contact Dave at ecochoices@ecounesco.ie or call 01 662 5491 for more information.

ECO-Choices

The young people on Eco-Choices are getting ahead of the curve by working on their projects for the Young Environmentalist Awards 2018. Young people from Stanhope Street Secondary School and Stoneybatter Youth Service are in the process of refining their ideas and coming up with ways of using their knowledge and skills to raise awareness and make a difference on the environmental issues they care about!



The young people from Drimnagh Castle who are completing the QQI Level 3 in Eco-Community Development are planning their peer education workshops for the New Year, in which they will use interactive and engaging methods to teach other young people in their school about environmental issues in a fun way. We wish them the best of luck!

Learning2Change our World regional workshops

The Learning 2 Change Team has been delivering workshops far and wide across the country in Dublin, Dundalk, Cork, Kerry, Monaghan, Roscommon, Westmeath, Carlow, Wicklow and Waterford, and that's just the past 2 months!

Young people looked at the big, global issues that are arising though population growth, over consumption and over pollution. They examine and reflect on their own consumer habits and start getting acquainted with the Sustainable Development Goals. In the follow-up workshop that L2C offers, young people look at what it means to 'Think Global, Act Local,' and start developing action projects whereby they can make real changes in their own communities.

The Learning 2 Change team also delivered a successful and enjoyable regional teacher and

The Learning Exchange team also delivered a successful and enjoyable regional teacher and student training day at our offices in ECO-UNESCO. 'Really excellent', said one teacher.

If you have any questions about this programme please contact Susie at youth@ecounesco.ie.

Do you want your organisation to be more sustainable?



Earlier this month we delivered a training to Sunbeam House in Bray, the latest organisation to sign up to the [ECO-Sustainability Award](#). The first meeting consists of a preliminary inspection of the premises and some tips and advice on how to improve the organisation's green performance. We wish them the very best in working towards the Bronze Award.

We work with organisations who want to improve their green practices to become more sustainable. If you or your organisation is interested in taking part in the ECO-Sustainability Award, please contact Niall at (01) 662 5491 or email ysd@ecounesco.ie.

Ends

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