



E-BULLETIN



Membership

Become a Member of ECO-UNESCO today and receive a full year of benefits. [Apply now!](#)

Opportunities

ECO-UNESCO is currently seeking individuals with a background in youth work, the environment or the voluntary sector to join our voluntary Board of Directors. [Find out more](#)

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.

CONTACT US

Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,



As we begin a fresh new year, we have hit the ground running and are aiming to pick up where we left off with the powerful momentum of last year! We have several new programmes kicking off and many more in the works, all of which will empower more people, mostly young people, from across the island of Ireland to get involved with us and learn more about the environment and taking action to protect it.

The Young Environmentalist Awards, which were gathered the largest crowds yet in 2017, are shaping up to outdo themselves again in 2018! We've had huge interest up until now with many terrific projects submitted already. But, the registration for the YEA 2018 remains open until the 16th February so there's still time to get involved!

Our Youth for Sustainable Development programme will continue to inspire young people to become peer educators and global youth leaders and we are delighted to be in the process of expanding it to new locations! This month on January 22nd, we launch the programme in Carlow and Drogheda, with more locations to be announced in 2018!

In 2018, we will also be busy internationally!

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, we cannot wait to see what 2018 brings; hopefully more of the same!

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

Elaine Nevin
National Director

Youths for Sustainable Development launches in Carlow and Drogheda

The YSD regional group in Carlow started on January 15th with 14 eager participants from schools all over

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The YSD regional group in Carlow started on January 15th with 14 eager participants from schools all over Carlow. The participants started off the 12 week programme with activities focusing on the interconnectedness of different issues in our world. The Meath/Louth YSD is ready to kick off on January 22nd. Interested young people (15-18 years old) in both Carlow and Meath/Louth regions are still able to join the groups. Two new groups are being formed in Co. Kildare and Co. Wicklow to start in February or March. Anyone interested in volunteering or taking part or who'd like to find out more is welcome to contact us for more information about the programme or new locations. Contact YSDOutreach@ecounesco.ie for more information.

Last month, the Dublin YSD groups joined forces to celebrate Christmas and the end of the 12 week programme for the newer group. The newer group received their certificates of participation for completing the programme. In the programme they learned about a range of topics including the Sustainable Development Goals, peer education, facilitation, mediation, conflict resolution, and reflecting on our own values. Going forward, the two groups will work together to share their skills and knowledge. Participants are eager to get involved in the local community and make a change!



Young people, joined by Cllr. William Paton, Sen. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and ECO-UNESCO's director Elaine Nevin for the launch of the YSD Carlow group.

Young Environmentalist Awards 2018



The deadline for all YEA participants to submit their project is February 16th. We've had huge interest in the programme as



always and we are really looking forward to receiving all of the projects and finding out what great ideas young people have for carrying out positive eco-action in their communities and further afield!

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

Upcoming Green Youth Employment Programmes 2018

ECO-UNESCO is delighted to continue its partnership with Accenture for the delivery of its Green Youth Employability programmes in 2018. This year, we will offer both full and part time programmes aimed at unemployed young people aged 16-25 in Dublin and the surrounding areas.

ECO-UNESCO's Green Youth Employment Programmes have something to suit everyone as the programmes take a blended learning approach including professional environmental QQI accredited training, motivational training, a valuable work placement to help participants get their 'foot in the door' to companies and organisations they may not otherwise have access to and additional project support and job clubs.

The start date for the upcoming full-time Green Youth Employability programme is April 23rd 2018! For more information or to register your interest please contact Triona on yei@ecunesco.ie or on 01 6625491.

ECO-UNESCO's Green Youth Employment Programmes are funded by Accenture.





One group of youths from one of our Green Skills programmes, funded by Accenture

ECO-Choices

This month, Dave from Eco-Choices delivered training to 10 Youth Workers on Education for Sustainable Development Methods. They came from services all over Dublin, and had an action-packed day learning how to engage young people in fun ways on issues of Sustainable Development and environmental issues. Some participants hope to use their knowledge in helping their groups to enter the Young Environmentalist Awards!

Meanwhile, the young people from Eco-Choices Stoneybatter Youth Service are working on their project of upcycling old textiles to raise awareness of the environmental impact of the fashion industry, and Eco-Choices participants from Stanhope Street Secondary School are coming up with ways to tackle water waste in everyday life. As part of their QQI level 3 in Eco-Community Development, Drimnagh Castle Transition Years are developing their peer education workshops, in which they hope to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst first years in their school.



Creative Fashion Workshop Stoneybatter

ECO-Clubs



The ECO-UNESCO DLR Environmental Action Programme, which is funded by Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council, is forging ahead and has hit the ground running in 2018. Our participating schools, Ballinteer CS and De La Salle College, are working away to get as much of the projects completed as they can in advance of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2018 ECO-Dens. The De La Salle students will be raising awareness

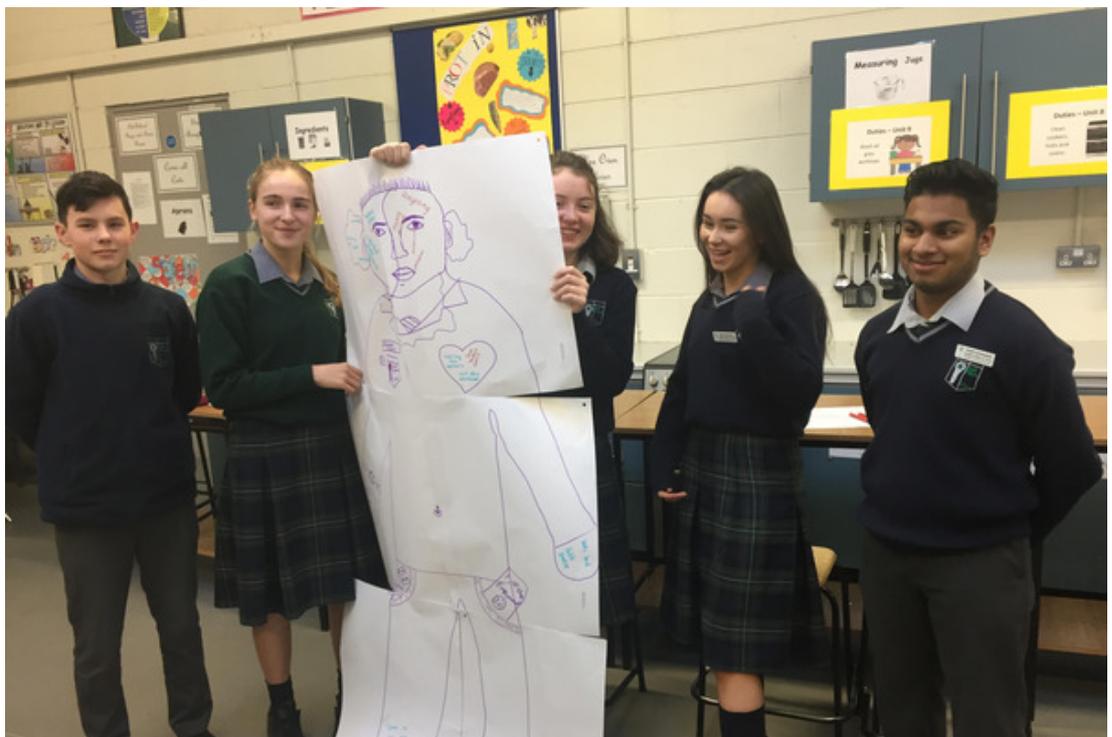
about plastic waste and growing their own veggies by constructing a plastic bottle greenhouse. The group in Ballinteer CS are looking at various ways they can reduce the consumption of meat in their school. The students are concerned with the environmental impacts of our dietary habits.

At the end of January we will be visiting four schools in Co. Sligo to carry out Creative Recycling and Zero Waste workshops. We can't wait to see what the young people come up with. These workshops have been funded by Sligo County Council through the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Fund 2017.

Learning2Change our World regional workshops

Learning 2 Change launched its Student Council training at the start of 2018. The student council of Scoil Mhuire in Kildare were an enthusiastic and engaging group who requested and organised the training themselves. During the workshop they explored their own leadership and team skills; they learned about and practised peer education on environmental issues. They were very keen to work on the waste situation in their school and set about planning a related Action Project to clean up their school and raise awareness about related environmental issues. With 1200 students in their school, the council saw they really had an opportunity to make a difference. Their teacher was delighted and said it was an 'excellent class delivered in an inspiring energetic manner. It inspired them to make a difference.' Otherwise, the Learning 2 Change team is once again on the move visiting Galway, Meath, Donegal, Waterford and Dublin in the coming weeks to deliver its flagship workshops. Two Teacher trainings will be held in the coming months and the programme will soon launch its 'Whole School Planning' sessions.

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.

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