



May E-BULLETIN 2017

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education
and Youth Organisation



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Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

This month we celebrated the work of thousands of young green teens at the 18th Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony 2017, in Dublin's Mansion House. Over 80 groups showcased their projects to the Lord Mayor of Dublin Brendan Carr, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Denis Naughten, UNESCO Representative and – the Judges! With musical performances, interactive learning zones, and MCs Ande Gray and Clara Murray leading the proceedings an enjoyable day was had by all! Read on to find out which teams picked up the most coveted awards.

May was also busy for our Youth for Sustainable Development and ECO-Choices programmes, who were busy putting the final touches to their Young Environmentalist Awards action projects. Find out how they got on and how they've been learning in the outdoors below.

Our Green Skills programme that started earlier in May has got off to a flying start. Some of the groups have been attending mock interviews at the Accenture Office in Dublin, and been getting great feedback. Next month a new course will be starting, find out more about the course and how to register in this update.

We also look forward to holding our Teen Summer camp next month, and now accepting places. You can find out about how to sign up in this update. It looks like there is no sign of slowing down; until next month be sure to keep up to date on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [website](#).

Elaine Nevin
National Director

Green teens honoured at the Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony

The [Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony 2017](#) was held on May 23rd in Dublin's Mansion House. Over 80 groups were shortlisted from over 285 entries for the finals from over 4,000 young people who participated in the awards. At the special ceremony, hosted by Ande Gray and Clara Murray, presenters of RTEjr 'Pop goes the weekend', projects across a wide range of innovative environmental themes, designed and put into action by young people from across the island of Ireland, were selected as winners.

The innovative winners include pioneering projects such as the creation of vibrant bio-diverse habitats for bees; the design of a new, sustainable school as well the creation and development of micro-bead free, organic beauty products. Minister of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten TD, who addressed the young people at the ceremony, said: "All of the young people who participated in the Young Environmentalist Awards deserve praise for

creating projects that meet the environmental challenges of the present and the future.

For more details about the event [click here](#).



Picture: Overall Junior and Biodiversity winners from Loreto College Swords with Minister Denis Naughten and Elaine Nevin (ECO-UNESCO)

Youth for Sustainable Development meet Minister Naughten



Picture: young people meeting Minister Denis Naughten at the YEA Final

Young people from the [Youth for Sustainable Development programme](#) spent a lot of time this month preparing projects and displays for the YEA Showcase and Awards Ceremony. They were delighted to meet Minister Denis Naughten and the Dublin Lord Mayor at the event and tell them about how they've been taking action to protect and raise awareness of environmental issues.

One of their projects, 'A Write to Refuge', was awarded the Senior Local to Global Award in recognition of their impactful work. The project aimed to raise awareness about climate refugees – people who have been forced to flee their homes due to changes in the natural environment related to the impacts of climate change. They gave presentations at local schools; set up a pen pal programme; and also made a film to engage young people about what it is like to be displaced by climate change! Well done to all the young people for inspiring actions.

ECO-Choices



Picture: young people from Stoneybatter Youth service win the Junior Waste Award

May was a busy month for Eco-Choices, as the groups that began in March are in full swing, and last year's groups are busy attend the Young Environmentalist Awards. Two of their projects, "Binning = Winning" and "Cycle Against Racism" picked up the Junior Waste Award and Senior ECO-Community Development Awards respectively. Congratulations to all the young people whose hard work and determination paid off!

Meanwhile, young people from Pleasants Street Youthreach have completed 7 weeks of their QQI level 3 in Eco-Community Development, and are now beginning to work on their community action project – refurbishing an unloved outdoor space in their centre!

The young people from Stanhope Street Secondary School also attended the YEA 2017 Final with their project 'Cleaning up the Liffey'. They recently went on an outdoor education day to Howth Head with Eco-Choices, where they played some team building games, got to connect with nature and completed a hike on the beautiful coastal path.

Now taking bookings for our Teen Summer Camp

ECO-UNESCO's teen summer camp is a perfect action-packed week for green teens! This week long camp is packed full of environmental workshops and activities for young people (aged 13-16)

that focuses on learning about the natural environment and discovering green areas around Dublin city centre. Day trips to Bull Island, Barnaslingan and Bray are included in the week's activities, along with classroom workshops and creative activities on biodiversity.

When: 26th - 30th June

Cost: €90

Where: ECO-UNESCO, 9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, with frequent day trips.

For more information [please click here](#), and book a place please contact Niall at (01) 6625491 or email ysd@ecounesco.ie.

Green Skills face Accenture panel

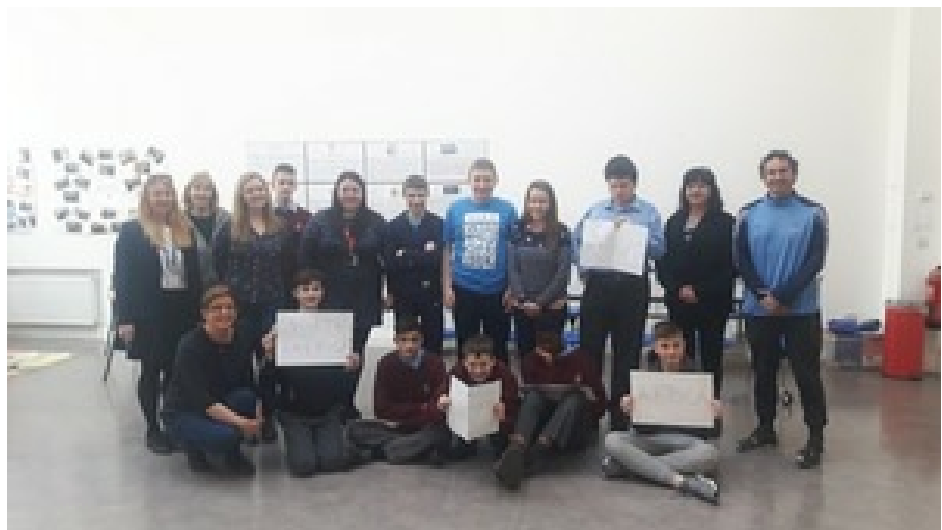


Photo: Green Skills participants at the Rediscovery Centre

Earlier in May participants in the Green Skills programme attended mock job interviews with experienced Accenture staff. This experience is invaluable to the participants which has helped improve their employability as they move forward with their search for work. All were happy with their feedback! The group are now on their 5 week work placement in a variety of green companies and organisations across Dublin. We wish them all the best in their placements.

We are also delighted to announce that we will be rolling out the upcoming Green Skills programme in a regional location in June 2017. Keep an eye on [our website](#) for upcoming key dates or register your interest now by contacting Triona at yei@ecounesco.ie or call 01 6625491.

Learning2Change our World travelling the country



The Learning2Change Programme has been busy continuing to deliver workshops around the country, and for teachers and youth leaders at the YEA!

A small cohort of exceptional students from Santa Sabina Secondary School in Sutton sent in a special request for a workshop with a slant towards 'Global Oceans Citizenship.' Susie worked

with Ocean Scientist, Allison, to deliver the Sustainable Development workshop with a distinctly marine flavour, looking in particular at biodiversity in the locality of Howth. The 5th Year Girls and some of their TY peers participated exceptionally well in the workshop demonstrating their knowledge and their interest in Sustainable Development. They will use the workshop as a springboard for their 'Politics in Society' Leaving Cert Citizens' project.

In addition L2C went to Blakestown Community College and Our Lady's Bower, Athlone and introduced the students to Sustainable Development where they enjoyed playing the resource game, especially the eating biscuits part!

ECO-Clubs exciting workshops

This month the clubs programme have been visiting schools in the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown (DLR) area of Dublin to see how they got on with their mini projects as part of our DLR Club Hub initiative. The young people in each of the five schools being visited received a workshop on a topic of their choice. Part of the training was to devise a small action they could take on the issue. The groups are carrying out various projects such as holding a school energy awareness day, tackling food waste, and tackling water scarcity. Each group will be receiving a second workshop over the next few weeks and we will be seeing how they got on with their projects.

Do you want your organisation to be more sustainable?



We work with organisations who want to improve their green practices to become more sustainable, by supporting them to achieve an [ECO-Sustainability Award](#). This is a whole organisation approach to sustainability which recognises organisations for the work that they are doing towards sustainability.

If you or your organisation is interested in taking part in the ECO-Sustainability Award, please contact Niall at (01) 662 5491 or ysd@ecounesco.ie.

Ends

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