



December E-BULLETIN 2016

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education
and Youth Organisation



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Education & Training

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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 2016. This year, over **10,000 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 2016** was bigger than ever, with over 4,000 young people across the island of Ireland playing their part in protecting and raising awareness about the environment. Our **Youth for Sustainable Development** programme continues to engage and empower young people to become peer educators and global youth leaders. We were delighted that six young people from the programme had the opportunity to represent ECO-UNESCO at the Conference of Youth in Marrakesh in November, and returned feeling invigorated and inspired to help protect our environment.

Our **Green Youth Employability Initiatives** continued to grow, and we launched the first regional programme in Galway this year. 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 be asked by UNESCO to develop and run a pilot GAP Flagship Youth Leadership programme in 2017. Watch this space early in 2017 for more details!

In addition to celebrating the successes of 2016, we took a look over the development and achievements of ECO-UNESCO over the years as we celebrated the organisation's 30th anniversary this year, which you can read about in this update.

I hope you enjoy reading about our recent activities and we look forward to continuing this work in 2017. On behalf of all at ECO-UNESCO I wish you a very Merry Christmas and the very best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2017.

Until next time,

Elaine Nevin
National Director

ECO-UNESCO celebrates 30 years of environmental education and youth work





This year marks the 30th anniversary of ECO-UNESCO. Since it was established in 1986 by a group of young people, ECO-UNESCO has developed and grown into a vibrant, dynamic organisation which has created a wide range of innovative programmes that aim to promote the personal development of young people.

We were delighted to celebrate this significant milestone with many of our supporters and members of the public at a celebratory festive event in the Wood Quay Venue on Wednesday 14th December. Guests were treated to an evening that took a look over the achievements of ECO-UNESCO over the past 30 years, and all the young people who have turned their passion and skills to protecting the Irish environment.

Hosts Clara Murray and Ande Gray, RTEjr presenters of Pop Goes The Weekend, guided the audience through a fun and inspiring evening of interviews with special guests that included young people who are involved with ECO-UNESCO programmes, the Founder of ECO-UNESCO, Peter Byrne, Elaine Nevin, National Director of ECO-UNESCO, and Board members Jamie Cudden and Mark Bennett.

Last week to register for the Young Environmentalist Awards 2017

Due to public demand the deadline to register for the Young Environmentalist Awards was extended during the month of December. Groups are invited to submit a project into one of ten categories that include climate change, water, energy, and biodiversity. The Awards support and encourage young people to be **proactive in protecting their local environment** whilst developing their **personal skills**, and **confidence**.

Groups can still enter even if they haven't finalised their project idea but the deadline is this week! Contact Ji to register your group at yea@ecounesco.ie or register online by [clicking this link](#).

Green Youth Employability programmes flourish



As 2016 is coming to an end we are in the final stages of work placement phase with our most recent Green Youth Employability programmes. All of the previous classes in 2016 have

recent Green Youth Employability programmes. All of the previous classes in 2016 have completed their QQI training and work placement. We are delighted that many have secured employment upon finishing the course.

Last month we launched our first Youth Employability programme in Galway and the results have been excellent so far with more than half of the young people who completed the programme progressing to either employment or further education already! The remaining participants are continuing with their work placements and we will continue to support them in the weekly job clubs in the New Year.

Youth Employability programmes in 2017 now enrolling

Our next Youth Employability programme will begin on **January 4th 2017 in Dublin**. The aim of this free 6 month programme is to improve employability skills and progress young people who are not in employment, education or training onto paid employment.

This course is open to individuals aged between **18 and 25 years old**. All participants will receive **professional accredited environmental training, motivational training** and a **valuable work placement** to help them get their 'foot in the door' to companies and organisations they may not otherwise have access to. Limited places are still available.

Visit our website by [clicking this link](#) to register your place or call Triona at 086 1591 946.

ECO-UNESCO is delighted to announce that we will be continuing the **Green Skills** youth employment programme in 2017 funded under **Accenture**. Please keep an eye on our website for any updates.

Youth for Sustainable Development in full swing



The Youth for Sustainable Development groups have had a busy month of activities. A number of Youth Peer Educators attended NYC1's YOUth Summit on Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals. They heard stories from Lt. Dan Cagney from the Irish Navy about the search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean Sea, and many other stories on the day. ECO-UNESCO ran another event to coincide with One World Week in Filmbase, Templebar. The young people showcased a number of short movies they produced themselves on the subject of human displacement from climate change.

Preparations are well underway for next year's Young Environmentalist Awards projects. A number of guest speakers from different organisations have visited our Wednesday workshops to speak about a range of topics such as a talk on animal protection from the DSPCA, a talk from An Taisce's John Gibbons and Ian Lumley about COP22 and the media's portrayal of climate change.

Ends.



ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA). ECO-UNESCO is part-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs' Youth Service Grant Scheme with the support from the National Lottery fund. For more information email ECO-UNESCO.

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