



February E-BULLETIN 2017

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education
and Youth Organisation



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Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Director's Message



Welcome to the February E-bulletin. It's been a very busy few weeks with lots of exciting activities, events, and eco-inspiration happening.

It was a huge honour for ECO-UNESCO to run a pioneering 'Education for Sustainable Development' Leadership training in conjunction with UNESCO in Dublin this month. Over 25 young people completed this prestigious training and now have the knowledge and skills to go back to their communities and mobilise and inspire their peers about Sustainable Development. We were delighted to hold a welcome and networking reception for the young delegates at Iveagh House, and were joined by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Rebecca Moynihan, Nigel Hutson of Irish Aid, and other guests. Find out how the young people got on in the update below.

Entries for the Young Environmentalist Awards have been teeming in over the past few weeks. Many of the young people taking part in our Youth programmes are putting the final touches to their projects before the deadline for submission on 2 March. We're looking forward to reading about all the green and inspiring actions young people have been taking across the country to protect the environment and hearing from the young people themselves at the ECO-Dens next month.

The young people on our Green Steps programme are working hard to complete their QQI Level 4 in Growing Vegetables. Find out how they're getting on in the update below and about how you can get involved in the next Green Youth Employability Initiative, Green Skills, beginning on March 20th.

Until next time,
Elaine Nevin
National Director

Prestigious UNESCO Youth Leadership training





ECO-UNESCO was delighted to run the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) Flagship 'Education for Sustainable Development' Youth Leadership training in conjunction with UNESCO on 21-22 February in Dublin. Five GAP Key Partners in five locations around the world have been selected by UNESCO to roll out the pilot training including Nairobi, Kenya; New Delhi India; Bahrain, Guatemala and ECO-UNESCO in Dublin Ireland.

The training took place in the Clock Tower in the Department for Education and Skills where over 25 young people, from ten different countries across Europe and Central America, took part in participatory workshops to learn the skills needed to lead the way in bringing about change to achieve a more sustainable world.

Over the course of two days, the young leaders broadened their knowledge about the theory and practice of **ESD themes** including; the Sustainable Development Goals, Systems Thinking; Conflict Transformation; Leadership; Communication; and Facilitation. All participants are now part of the ESD Young leaders Network coordinated by UNESCO and the GAP.

On the 21 February the delegates enjoyed an evening networking reception in Iveagh House, where they were joined by the Deputy Lord Mayor Rebecca Moynihan, Nigel Hutson the Deputy Director of the Multilateral Aid Unit at Irish Aid, and Julie Saito, UNESCO Representative. A very enjoyable and inspiring evening was had by all.

ECO-UNESCO will be attending the UNESCO '[Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Role of Education](#)' Conference in March in Ottawa, Canada. This Conference presents a unique platform for discussion on two key programmes of the Education Sector, including Education for Sustainable Development, and their practical contribution in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education. ECO-UNESCO will be presenting on the outcomes of the training in Dublin, find out how we get on in the next edition.

YEA 2017 submission deadline extended



Thousands of young people across Ireland have been working tirelessly over the past number of months on their YEA action projects, and are seeing the fruits of their labour. Young people have been giving us sneak previews of their projects on social media using the hashtag #YEA17 and we're looking forward to reading all about their eco-endeavours!

The deadline for submission has been extended to **March 2nd**. Following the submission deadline we will begin to shortlist entries for the regional ECO-Dens which will take part in March. For the essential dates for your diary; please [click here](#)! For all the information on completing the submission, please [click here](#).

Green Youth Employment roll up their sleeves



Young people on the [Green Steps](#) programme that began in January are well underway in their environmental training. They are working hard towards completing their QQI Level 4 in Growing Vegetables, for many a new experience! Despite the weather, the young people involved are diligently working in the gardens and are looking forward to their harvest. Following this, they are looking forward to their upcoming work placements in an exciting variety of areas.

We are currently **open to applications** for the upcoming [Green Skills course](#) which begins on **March 20th**. This free full-time 10 week programme, funded by Accenture, aims to upskill young people (aged 18-24) and support them through their **progression on to paid employment**. Participants will receive professional environmental training in Sustainable Development (QQI), motivational training and a valuable 5 week work placement. For information and to apply [click here](#) or contact Triona on yei@ecounesco.ie or call on 01 662 5491

Learning2Change Our World



The [Learning2Change Our World Programme](#) has been busy throughout February with visits to schools around the country delivering fun and engaging workshops in Sustainable Development. Last week, our Learning2Change Officer, Susie, toured the country with visits to Beaufort College in Navan, Saint

Michael's Community College in Co. Clare (pictured above) and Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna. The enthusiastic students were shocked to discover what was found inside the stomach of a whale in Norway and how our own actions create effects that have consequences for our planet. Susie was impressed by their ideas for environmental action projects they plan to carry out.

Over the next few weeks, Susie will be visiting many more schools in Dublin, Cavan and elsewhere. There will also be a **Regional Teacher Training Day in Galway** taking place in March. For more information contact Susie at youth@ecounesco.ie.

ECO-Choices offering accredited training



In February the [ECO-Choices](#) groups have been working hard on to complete their action projects for the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) before the submission deadline. Young people from Stanhope Secondary School have almost finished producing an animated film (pictured above), and young people at Stoneybatter Youth Service, are currently editing their film on a social experiment on the topic of litter. Young people from Drimnagh Castle will shortly be delivering environmental workshops to first year pupils in their school as part of their QQI Level 3 in Eco-Community Development, and are excited about their YEA submission.

We are currently looking to work with a **Youthreach centre in Dublin** to deliver a 10-week QQI Level 3 in Eco-Community Development starting in March. For more information please don't hesitate to contact Dave at ecochoices@ecounesco.ie.

ECO-Clubs exciting new workshops

ECO-UNESCO Clubs are going on a road trip around the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown (DLR) area of South Dublin this spring as part of our DLR Club Hub funded by Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council. Over the coming weeks we will visit five schools in the area to give two part workshops to secondary schools on a range of exciting issues. In the first workshop we will support young people to come up with a **plan to address an environmental issue** such as zero waste, alternative energy, endangered species, and more. In April we'll go back and visit each school again and see how they got on with their projects. We can't wait to see what they get up to!

Youth for Sustainable Development

Young people from the Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme have been busy working

on their YEA Action projects taking what they have learnt during the programme and putting it into action with their peers. We have been running an **accredited training** with many of the young people who are in the second year of the YSD programme now embarking on the QQI Level 5 in Peer Education for Sustainable Development. This training further develops the **leadership skills** in young people to carry out sustainability projects with their peers.

We are also busy working with organisations who are taking on the [ECO-Sustainability Award](#) – this is a whole organisation approach to sustainability which recognises organisations for the work that they are doing towards sustainability.

Ends

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