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January E-BULLETIN 2017

ECO-UNESCO
Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation

Membership

Become a Member of ECO-UNESCO today and receive a full year of benefits. Apply now!

Opportunities

For current volunteering opportunities 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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Director's Message

Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Welcome to a Welcome to a New Year at ECO-UNESCO. I hope you're looking forward to the next year as much as we are. We have a lot to look forward to in 2017 as we continue to educate, engage and inspire young people to get involved in environmental protection through our various projects, programmes and initiatives.

This year we will be continuing our strong links with UNESCO through the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. In February we will be running a UNESCO Youth Leadership Flagship Training in Dublin. Details on how to apply are in the update below.

Our Youth for Sustainable Development programme continues to go from strength to strength with young people now receiving accredited training in Peer Education for Sustainable Development. The Young Environmentalist Awards 2017 is proving to be as popular as ever with thousands of young people already registered and busy carrying out their projects. There's still time to take part and make a difference; read on to find out how you can sign up.

During 2017 we will continue to run our Green Youth Employment programmes, and welcomed the first intake for the Green Steps programme in January. Find out how they are getting on in this bulletin.

So 2017 looks set to be another busy year and we look forward to seeing you all throughout the year. Be sure to keep up to date with all our news and events on Twitter, Facebook and our website.

Until next time,
Elaine Nevin
National Director

Youth Employability gets off to a green start

We're delighted to welcome new participants to a new **Green Steps** programme that commenced at the beginning of January. The group have already done an investigatory Green Business Trail, a trip to Howth, and designed a comprehensive CV. They're really looking forward to completing the QQI courses on offer including; QQI Level 3 Eco Community Development; QQI Level 4 Vegetable Growing; and QQI Level 5 Work Experience, before heading off on a valuable 12 week work placement.

If you would like to improve your employability this year get in touch! Our **Youth Employment Initiatives** have something to suit everyone as the programmes take a blended approach including professional environmental QQI accredited training, motivational training, a valuable work placement, and additional project support and job clinic.

Keep up to date with the upcoming courses at www.ecounesco.ie/youth-employment or contact Triona at yei@ecounesco.ie or call 01 6625491. Our Youth Employment programmes are funded under the Dormant Accounts and Accenture.

UNESCO Leadership training in February

This year we will be continuing our strong links with UNESCO. ECO-UNESCO, as a Key Partner of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP), is holding an Education for Sustainable Development Leadership Training on 21-22 February (Dublin). This two day training aims to engage with the theory and practice of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to empower youth leaders to inspire and mobilise others to take action towards building more sustainable communities as ESD Leaders. The course is free and open to anyone aged 18-35. For more information and for an application form contact training@ecounesco.ie or call 01 662 5491.

In March we will also be attending the UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: the Role of Education and presenting on our work in Youth engagement, empowerment and leadership for Sustainable Development and we'll be delighted to share our work and learn from others internationally.

Young Environmentalist Awards 2017 submission deadline

We are so excited by the hundreds of project entries that have been submitted to the Young Environmentalist Awards 2017. Thousands of young people across Ireland, from Derry, to Tuam, to Newbridge, will no doubt be very busy over the coming weeks putting their projects into action! Keep us up to date with your activities by connecting with ECO-UNESCO on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and use the hashtag #YEA2017. Good luck to everyone!

The **deadline for project submission is February 24**, when the shortlisting for the ECO-Dens in March will begin. For more information on project submission and the judging process, please see: www.ecounesco.ie/YEA. There is still time to enter a project in this year's competition, please contact Ji at yea@ecounesco.ie to find out how.

Youth for Sustainable Development group gain new skills

Big congratulations to the latest intake in the Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme who completed the programme in December. Over the course of the 12 week programme, they covered topics such as sustainable development and developed their skills in peer education, film-making, team work, and much more! But it doesn't end there as the young people now turn their attention to carrying out their action projects for the Young Environmentalist Awards.

The Senior group are very excited to begin a new QQI Level 5 Peer Education for Sustainable Development course this month. Over the next 6 weeks they will embark on this intensive training, which gives them the opportunity to channel their energy and passion for the environment into a nationally recognised qualification.

The next Youth for Sustainable Development programme will start in September. For more information contact Niall at ysd@ecounesco.ie.

ECO-Choices groups taking action

The New Year may have just begun, and the ECO-Choices groups have hit the ground running. All groups have completed the 10-week Eco-Choices or Community Development programme and are now working on their action projects to protect their local environment.

The girls from Stoneybatter Youth Service took time out of their Christmas holidays to get stuck in to their project tackling the issue of litter in the North Inner City. They designed and printed motivational anti-litter badges to hand out with their surveys exploring the problem of litter, before shooting a clever video which captured people's responses to public littering. Watch this space!

Young people from Stanhope Street Secondary School are raising awareness of pollution in the River Liffey by making an animated film about the struggles faced by wildlife on the river, exploring people's awareness of river pollution through a survey, and they intend to share their findings and their film with other young people in the area.

The group from Drimnagh Castle have finished their taught sessions for the QQI level 3 in Eco-Community Development, and will soon begin delivering their own peer-education sessions on environmental topics to first years in their school.

If you have a youth group or class that might be interested in taking either of the Eco-Choice programmes, get in touch at ecochoices@ecounesco.ie!

Go green with your peers and set up an ECO-Club

Setting up a ECO-Club at your school, youth club, or just with your friends, is a great way to improve your green habits and make a difference to your local environment. It's quick and simple to do, just get in touch at the details below and we'll give you all the support you need!

There are hundreds of ECO-Clubs across Ireland that are ambassadors for environmental protection. Why not write up your Club's New Year resolutions and use them to push a greener agenda in your school/youth club/local community. **Waste** is something we all produce, so it's a good place to start. The **5Rs** can help you focus the efforts of young people.

Refuse to buy cheap disposable goods that will end up quickly in the bin.
Reduce the amount of waste produced by using reusable bottles and containers.
Reuse/repair things, rather than buying a replacement.
Rot food waste, all food waste can be composted, either at home or through waste collection
Recycle anything that you can.

If you would like to set up a Club and receive regular advice and tips on how to be more green and help the environment, get your group together and contact Dunchadh at clubs@ecounesco.ie or call 01 6625491.

Learning2Change commences second phase

In January, Learning2Change has been scheduling more fantastic in-school workshops for students and teachers where we explore sustainable development in a fun and interactive way. Students are encouraged and supported to consider how they can take positive action to protect our wonderful planet.

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Learning2Change is currently engaging with a number of schools from Dublin, Meath, Cavan. Watch this space for our up-and-coming Regional Teacher Training to be held in Galway in the month of March.

You can get more information about the Learning 2 Change Our World Programme by clicking here or contact Susie at learning2change@ecounesco.ie.

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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