



March E-BULLETIN 2017

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education
and Youth Organisation



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Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Director's Message



I am delighted to welcome you to our March E-bulletin, I hope you enjoy reading all our latest updates from what has been a busy month. The regional ECO-Dens have been travelling the country, with only the Leinster ECO-Den left to take place next week. We have met so many inspiring and determined young environmentalists who have made fantastic contributions to the local environment. Find out how they got on in this update.

The Youth for Sustainable Groups have also been busy preparing for the Young Environmentalist Awards; and enjoying the Wednesday evening workshops and activities. A group of the young people ran an event in Europe House to celebrate World Water Day, educating their peers about water issues and the SDGs. Read on to find out about their activities and an exciting new #gotthebottle campaign that we have joined.

We are delighted that a new Youth Employability programme-Green Skills- will be starting on Monday 27th of March. There's still time to register before then so please share the details in this update to any young people you think might be interested in the course.

During March I was delighted to attend the UNESCO Week of Peace and Sustainability in Ottawa. The week brought together over 400 experts, practitioners and policy-makers from all world regions, and I was delighted to present at a workshop on empowering young people and sustainable lifestyles during the week. Read on to find out more about the activities and outcomes of the Conference.

As always we would like to encourage all of you to get involved in ECO-UNESCO by taking part in any of our programmes, becoming a member or volunteering. 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

Young people across the country enter the Young Environmentalist Awards ECO-Dens





The regional [ECO-Dens](#) of the Young Environmentalist Awards got off to a fantastic start in Munster, Connaught and Ulster this month. Young people enjoyed having the opportunity to pitch their eco-action project to a panel of expert judges, whilst improving their presentation/communication skills and confidence; and networking between peers and schools.

We've been inspired by their enthusiasm and dedication over the past few months and delighted to see all their hard work pay off. We can't wait to meet the young people at the Leinster ECO-Den (28th-30th March, Europe House) and hear all about their efforts to help protect the environment. Keep an eye on social media for live updates using #YEA2017.

Once the judging process is complete, finalist will be invited to the YEA Showcase and Awards Ceremony in the Mansion House, Dublin on 23rd May and the YEA People's Choice public vote will open for public members to choose and reward your favourite project!

Our thanks to all the fantastic expert judging panel who gave their time and experience to the ECO-Dens, and also to all of the Local Authorities and Borough Councils who supported the events around the island of Ireland.

Youth for Sustainable Development group have #gotthebottle



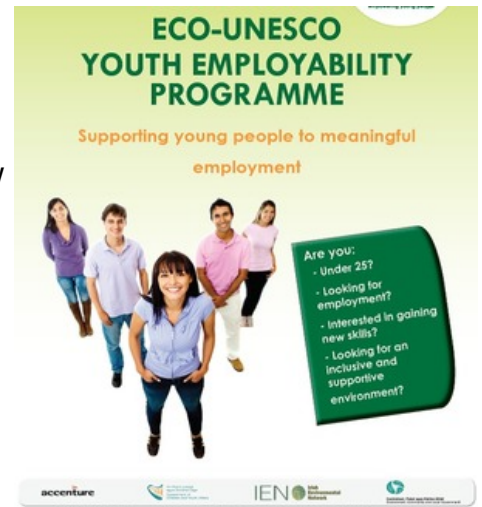
Young people on the [Youth for Sustainable Development programme](#) were delighted to submit their YEA action projects last month. Keen to keep the details for the Leinster ECO-Den, they have shared with us a walk from Bray to Greystones they organised to raise awareness of the great distance some people have to travel to access clean water in developing countries (pictured).

Our Wednesday evening workshops have also been full of fun activities and talks from guest speakers. On March 22nd, young people from the YSD programme ran a workshop to celebrate World Water Day in Europe House. The event was also used to launch an exciting new #gotthebottle campaign which aims to cut out single use plastic water bottles. More information about the campaign and to check out the campaign video, click the following link

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<https://www.facebook.com/gotthebottle/>

New Green Employment courses starting

We would like to congratulate the current Green Steps participants who have recently completed their QQI Level 4 training in Growing Vegetables. They now turn to preparing for their 12 week work placements. We wish them the best of luck, and look forward to welcoming them back for ongoing support throughout their placement.



Green Skills

We look forward to welcoming new participants to the upcoming youth employment programme - [Green Skills](#) - funded by Accenture which starts on Monday 27 March. Green Skills is a 10 week programme that combines specialist training; a practical work experience placement; mentoring; project work, along with supports including employment and further education support. The intensive programme includes QQI training in Sustainable Development (Level 5) along with a 5 week work placement and post course employment supports.

There's still time to apply; visit our website to apply online and details for future Green Skills courses. <http://www.ecounesco.ie/eco-unesco-youth-employment/green-skills>

ECO-UNESCO attend UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development Conference



From 6th-10th March ECO-UNESCO attended the [UNESCO Week for Peace](#)

[and Sustainable Development Conference](#) in Ottawa, Canada. The week focussed on the role of Education, particularly for young people and teachers, in achieving a more sustainable future. Over 400 experts, practitioners and policy makers from key organisations from around the world came together to share innovative approaches and practices in Education for Sustainable Development.

ECO-UNESCO's National Director, Elaine Nevin, co-hosted a workshop on the role of young people in sustainability during the Conference, to share some of the best practice of our organisation's work on a global platform. We were also delighted to meet Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, at the Conference (pictured).

ECO-UNESCO is a Key Partner of the UNESCO Global Action Programme to support the achievement of [Key Priority 4: 'empowering and mobilising young people'](#). Last month we ran the European pilot of the [GAP Youth Leadership training in Dublin](#), and the Conference provided an opportunity to provide feedback on this successful training.

The 27 Youth Leaders who took part in this two day training are now busy carrying out workshops in their local communities to educate and empower young people they work with about the Sustainable Development Goals.

ECO-Choices on a roll



The group of young people from Stoneybatter Youth Service were delighted to make a film, '*Binning is Winning*', which shows how easy and fun it is to keep Dublin's North Inner City clean! They held a public screening on 21st of March and plan to share it with the public and other relevant bodies.

The young people from Stanhope Street Secondary School are busy sharing the animated film they made about the impact of litter and pollution on wildlife in the river Liffey. They're using social media and other means to share it locally. Both groups are hoping to make it to the next round of the [Young Environmentalist Awards](#) at the end of the month.

Young people from Drimnagh Castle have finished their peer-education action project, which consisted of running workshops with first year students in their school. This was the last element of their QQI Level 3 in Eco-Community Development, so they are well on their way towards getting their qualification.

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.

We are excited to have begun facilitating a QQI Level 3 in Eco-Community Development with a new partner, Pleasants Street Youthreach. It is our first time working with this organisation and the first three workshops have been very successful. We are looking forward to seeing what action project the students undertake as part of their qualification.

Learning2Change Teacher Training, Galway 31 March, book now



Youth and Education Officer, Susie, has been touring the country far and wide over the last month with visits to schools in Macroom in Cork, Cahirciveen in Kerry, Ramsgrange in Wexford and Bunrana and Merville in Donegal to name a few. She has found students to be engaging and enthusiastic with many already familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals. Most popular amongst students and teachers is the 'Distribution and Pollution' activity. Here

students use chairs and biscuits to allocate 'wealth' amongst the continents where global inequality becomes patently obvious. Most fun is making mayhem with newspaper which represents global environmental impact. The results are ugly and impressive. Time to reflect....and then there's another game to tidy up.

A Regional **Teacher Training Day on Education for Sustainable Development** is scheduled for **31st March in Galway** and open to all teachers and educators. Substitution and travel costs are paid for. For more information and to book contact Susie at youth@ecunesco.ie or call 01 6625491.

ECO-Clubs delivers exciting new workshops

This month the [ECO-UNESCO Clubs](#) programme has been visiting schools in the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown area to deliver a range of exciting new workshops. A big thank you to the staff and students of Coláiste Íosagáin, Ballinteer CS, St. Killian's, and Jesus & Mary College for welcoming us.

We delivered workshops on **Alternative Energy; Sustainable Development & Global Inequality;** and **Food and Water Security**. The students will be carrying out mini-projects to address the issues they learned about in the workshops. We are looking forward to going back to see how their action-projects



went and to deliver more workshops.

This is part of the DLR Club Hub, funded by Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council.

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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