



Adventures in the Park

Adventure trails, pirates, treasure and more. We had an action-packed summer in Phoenix Park - and learned lots about our environment!

Little ECO-Adventurers (aged 5 - 12) joined ECO-UNESCO and the Office of Public Works for a highflying adventure during the month of July for the Phoenix Park Summer Programme.

Ahoy!

On the hunt for Pirate Captain Badfellow, we discovered the hidden treasures of Phoenix Park. Dressed as pirates and armed with our mighty pirate roar, we played lots of fun activities and games while learning more about Ireland's animals, plants and natural history.

Tree-mendous fun!

The trees of Phoenix Park are rich with history and druid's magic. Can you cast a spell? Or write your name in secret Ogham script? Do you know where the most ancient tree in the park is? We learned all about Ireland's heritage in trees by exploring all the beautiful foliage of the Park.

Not afraid to get our hands dirty!

Even on the dreariest days, we had plenty of hands-on fun in the Phoenix Park visitor centre doing lots of exciting creative recycling projects. Who knew that rubbish could be put to such good use! Once the sun came out, we headed to the walled garden to plant strawberry bushes and to meet all the creepy-crawlies that live in the garden.

Learning the secrets of the plants and animals in Phoenix Park lets your imagination run wild! Nothing is better than exploring nature, learning more about the importance of protecting our environment and having a great time too!

Don't miss out on the fun! Be sure to check out ECO-UNESCO's summer programmes next year (<http://ecounesco.ie/youth.aspx>) exciting arsenal of workshops for all ages! We custom design workshops many different environmental themes and travel across the country to deliver workshops in your school or youth centre.

For more information about ECO-UNESCO's Environmental Youth Programme and Workshops, contact youth@ecounesco.ie.

Welcome to the second edition of ECO-UNESCO News.

This edition is packed with news of our past activities and information on up and coming events and initiatives.

This year's hits included our Young Environmentalist Awards; the ever-popular summer programme in the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and our Earth Day events. Now we're looking forward to our Youth for Sustainable Development eco-mentary and the return of our FETAC (level 5) accredited course 'Introduction to Sustainable Development'. As well as this, registration is open for our 'National Youth ECO-Forum; What's so hot about Climate Change2? Countdown to Copenhagen' on 25th November. You can keep tabs on all this and other ECO-UNESCO events in the 'dates for your diary' section.

This year I attended the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Bonn, Germany with over 700 people from all over the world. It was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas on how education systems can create a more sustainable world. Many countries represented at the conference are implementing National Strategies on ESD, but Ireland has yet to adopt its National Strategy even though work on this was completed in 2008.

We were delighted to see the important role of young people highlighted in the Bonn Declaration adopted at the conference. It emphasized the need for ESD to involve young people at every stage of the process, in order to foster their ownership of the important issues it examines.

The work of ECO-UNESCO reflects these goals, and we want people to get involved in our organization, so why not participate in one of our programmes, become a member, volunteer with us or donate to support the work we do.

Get involved and make a difference! Until next time,

Elaine Nevin
National Director, ECO-UNESCO



About ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

Our programmes and services:

- Environmental Youth Programmes
- Young Environmentalist Awards Programme
- Education & Training Programmes
- Education Resources
- Consultancy services



Bears, Bikes and Baked Goods Lead the Pack at the 2009 Young Environmentalist Awards

This year marked the 10th anniversary of ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards. In an award ceremony held in Dublin's Mansion House last May, the top young environmentalists were named by ECO-UNESCO.

The Senior Overall award went to the fantastic group from CBS Charleville, Co. Cork for their ongoing project to get more people to cycle. In the Junior Overall category,



two Northern Irish groups from St. Catherine's Armagh and Banbridge High School shared the prize for their campaigns to support local agriculture and to stop global warming.

The ceremony, hosted by RTE's Aidan Power and attended by Barry Andrews, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, followed a vibrant

showcase of 52 environmental projects from young people hailing from all corners of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Over 500 young people attended the event, showing just how engaged in and passionate about the environment today's youth is.

"Their work today shows the importance of providing young people the opportunity to create their own environmental action projects," commented Elaine Nevin, National Director of ECO-UNESCO. "We could learn a lot from these young people - a small change in everyday habits can make a big difference for the Earth," she added.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Eibhlin Byrne, kicked off the 10th Anniversary celebration and showcase. "The future belongs to young people. This talented, bright generation have the world in the palm of their hands and I am delighted to see them paying such attention to protecting and valuing that world", said the Lord Mayor.

The showcase provided young people with a great opportunity to meet other young people with similar ideals. They demonstrated their work and traded tips on gardening, converting to wind energy, composting, getting the community involved in environmental campaigns and much more.



In the past decade, thousands of young people aged 12-18 have participated in ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards, developing environmental projects in their own community. Here's to another ten successful years of thousands more innovative participants!



Do you think you have what it takes to be a Young Environmentalist?

Register Now!

The 2010 Young Environmentalist programme is now open for registration for groups of 2-25 young people aged 12-18. To find out more about how you can get involved or register your project visit www.ecounesco.ie or contact us at yea@ecounesco.ie Tel: **+353 1 662 5491**

Here's what Young Environmentalists had to say about this year's programme:



"ECO-UNESCO gives a great opportunity for young people to express their feelings about the environment and allows us to show our passion through the work we display at the Young Environmentalist Awards. It is a chance for us to act and hopefully make a difference."
Rebecca, Banbrige



"It was a great highlight of the fourth year and brought a lot of people together."
Katie, Bray



"I think it's a great way to get young people to give their ideas and to be listened to. If young people are more aware of what's happening in the environment they can help more in the future or when they grow up."
Roisin, Limerick



"I am enjoying doing this project to make The Glen a better place to live in."
Tony, Cork



Lights, Cameras, Youth in Action!

ECO-UNESCO's Youth for Sustainable Development Peer Educators have worked tirelessly this summer to produce ECO-UNESCO's first eco-mentary. Funding for the project was provided by the Leargas Youth in Action fund. Between now and November, the group of 15-18 year olds will put the finishing touches on their documentary about cultural diversity in Ireland. The Peer Educators have been investigating the lessons we can learn from other cultures to be more inclusive and sustainable.

ECO-UNESCO ECO-Youth Choices Programme Leaves a Mark on Greystones

In April 2009, ECO-Youth Choices and VSI held a joint residential programme in Greystones. Sixteen young people from the greater Dublin area gathered in the seaside town to learn about the environment, peace building, volunteering and personal development.

During the weeklong programme the young people became the latest group of ECO-Youth Choices Peer Educators. The programme uses environmental education as a tool for drug misuse prevention, allowing for the positive personal development of young people.

The diverse, international group hailed from Ireland, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Congo, Rwanda, India, Nepal, Ghana and Iraq. During the programme, they worked with the Greystones Tidy Towns Committee on several projects including a mural on Greystones Beach and clearing the path in Kindlestown Woods.

Now back home, the young people participating in the programme will be Peer Educators in their communities leading environmental awareness projects of their own.



Tree-Mendous Tree Week

During National Tree Week in March, we held a Tree-Mendous Tree Day event in Dublin's Merrion Square. Over 25 young people from across Dublin braved the cold, icy weather to learn more about Ireland's trees.

Even through spells of sleet and rain, the eager Tree Day participants scampered through

the park to unlock the secret world of Irish trees during a cryptic tree safari. They learned to identify various species of trees and learned all about their ancient uses.

Dublin City Council joined the day, demonstrating tree planting and adding two new trees to the lush Merrion Square gardens. Each group received Silver Wattle Trees

to take home to start their own planting project. Even RTE News joined the action, sending a crew from the News2Day programme to film the event and interview participants about all they learned about trees.

Thanks to all who came out to support National Tree Week! It was Tree-Mendous fun!



This is how we do it!

As well as delivering our own workshops to various youth groups around Ireland one of ECO-UNESCO's core initiatives is training eager Teachers & Leaders in the arts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Over a period of two days at the beginning of January our intrepid staff members Armin "Anaconda" Krautgasser and Ian "Iguana" Davis facilitated a group of teachers and youth leaders from the Dun Laoghaire area through a series of interactive and challenging activities designed to give them practical ESD skills to take back to their working environments. There was a great opportunity to share best practice amongst the delegates with comfort barriers being smashed as everybody learnt fresh ideas by getting up from behind the tables and out onto the shop floor!

ECO-UNESCO Education & Training

Are you a teacher or youth worker? Are you interested in integrating environmental education into your work? Would you like to learn more about sustainable development or education for sustainable development methodologies? Then join one of ECO-UNESCO's One-Day training programmes in Dublin, Cork or Galway or sign up for our 10-week FETAC accredited course Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC Level 5).

We're always adding new training dates, so visit www.ecounesco.ie for the most up-to-date schedule or to register for a course.

Mending Fences

The sun really came out for us on a wonderful Earth Day this year. We took a group of 20 young people from the Youth for Sustainable Development Peer Education Programme to Turvey Park in Donabate.

During the day, the young people learned more about sustainability and woodland management through practical, hands on activities. They hiked around the area, led by local expert in biodiversity, Hans Visser, and learned all about the initiative to turn the site into a nature reserve.

The group looked at community allotment schemes, learning how they work and why people get involved. They also took a look at the bird watch hide set up by Bird Watchers Ireland to get a better understanding of the native birds in North Dublin.

By far, the highlight of the day was when the



group lent a hand to build the final section of a fence, over a year in the making. The fence, made from timber from the woodland management scheme, will be used to hold in local cattle and is a great representation of the way communities are integrating sustainable solutions to daily life.

Save The Date!

There's always something exciting going on at ECO-UNESCO. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.ecounesco.ie

20 August: ECO-Education Training

September: 2010 Young Environmentalist Season Launched

22 September: ECO-Action for a Car-Free Day

24 September - 17 December: Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC, Level 5) 10-week course, Dublin

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25 September: Sustain It! Creating Sustainable Organisations in the Youth Sector One-Day Training, Dublin

October: Education for Sustainable Development Seminar, Dublin

10 October: Leadership in Education for Sustainable Development One-Day Training, Meath

16 October: Youth Work and Sustainability One-Day Training, Cork

20 October: ECO-Choices One-Day Training, Dublin

21 October: ECO-Woodland Discovery, Wicklow

November: National Youth ECO-Forum

3 November: ECO-Education One-Day Training, Dublin

6 November: Leadership in Education for Sustainable Development One-Day Training, Dublin

27 November: Youth Work and Sustainability One-Day Training, Dublin

27 November: Young Environmentalist Registration Deadline

National Youth ECO-Forum 2009: What's so hot about climate change 2? Countdown to Copenhagen

It's back! Last year's National Youth ECO-Forum caught the public imagination as it gave young people the chance to speak directly with environmental experts and policy-makers. This year, on November 25, young people aged 15 - 18 will again take part in a Speed Networking session with experts in the fields of

science, education, policy and media, and get the chance to make their voices heard in the Countdown to Copenhagen.

GET INVOLVED! For more information contact youth@ecounesco.ie



John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government speaking at last year's National Youth ECO-Forum.

Our Experience at ECO-UNESCO!!



Hi! We're Vivienne and Catherine from St. Louis High School. For one week we've been doing a social placement with ECO- UNESCO. It has been a very interesting and fun week. We have learnt a lot about our environment especially about Climate Change. At the start of the week we were involved with organising for a very big event for ECO-UNESCO. Then finally on the 26th of November we took part in "What's So Hot About Climate Change".

At the start of the day Minister for Environment John Gormley gave a very interesting speech about how Ireland is trying to lower our emissions so we can tackle Climate Change. Within this event we also took part in many different workshops. Each workshop dealt with a different part of Climate Change; **The Science, The Media, The Policies, The Education and The Cost of Climate Change**. We found all these very interesting and at the end of the day we got to put our questions and suggestions to the

experts who deal with Climate Change in everyday life.

It is good to know that our points and views are being listened to by Ireland's top experts. It is also good to know that so many other teenagers such as ourselves are interested in looking after Ireland's environment and hopefully we can get a lot more interested in Ireland's future. We would like to thank all at ECO-UNESCO for making us feel so welcome and helping us enjoy our social experience that bit more!

- Vivienne & Catherine, St. Louis Rathmines (TY Work Experience & National Youth ECO-Forum participants)

Want to be just like Vivienne and Catherine? Then check out ECO-UNESCO's National Youth ECO-Forum 2009: What's Even Hotter About Climate Change. If you want to be invited to the big event, then email youth@ecounesco.ie.

Hot off the press!

ECO-UNESCO publishes a variety of educational resources. Check out our newest childrens book 'The Great Rubbish Adventure' and follow the adventures of Ellen and Eoin as they discover where rubbish and waste really come from. Watch out for Climate Watchers a magazine specially produced by young people for young people. Many more publications are available to purchase including some favourites: 'What on

earth is Sustainable Development?; Trees in Our World; 'Protecting Your Local Environment' and 'the Four Seasons Pack'. Also available is a wide range of posters and two multi-media CD-ROMs with interactive multi-media environmental material for children and young people. For a full list of resources or to order material contact communications@ecounesco.ie or check out our website www.ecounesco.ie.