

## All Ireland ECO-Action Programme Grows Bigger and Bigger!



Joint Senior Winners of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2013; (L) Communery, Mountmellick Community School, Laois and (R) Youth Top Gardeners, Dublin pictured with President Michael D. Higgins and Elaine Nevin, National Director of ECO-UNESCO

### Recognising and Rewarding Young Green Projects

Since 1999, the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) has encouraged and rewarded thousands of positive eco-action projects around the island of Ireland. In 2013, over 330 projects registered for the programme involving over 5000 young people. Participants were invited to take part in a regional Dragons' Den style semi-final from which 70 groups were chosen to make it to the Showcase and Awards Ceremony in the Mansion House on May 22nd. 2013 marked the biggest YEA Showcase and Awards Ceremony to date and with over 600 young people and special guests including Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland; Cllr Clare Byrne, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin and RTE's Stephen Byrne as MC, it was truly a day to remember.

### Congratulations To Our 2013 Participants!

Congratulations to everybody who took part in the YEA 2013, for all their hard work in helping improve the environment and for the impressive presentations and showcase delivered at the ECO-Dens and the National Showcase and Awards Ceremony. Green Teens from Mountmellick Community School, Laois and an ECO-UNESCO Peer Education Group from Dublin jointly scooped the Overall Senior

Award, while SAYSWACC, Dublin took home the Overall Junior Award. For photos, videos, and details about shortlisted projects, visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie).

### Energy Globe Award Success!

In April 2013, ECO-UNESCO was presented with the National Energy Globe Award for Ireland by Dr. Thomas Nader, the Austrian Ambassador to Ireland. ECO-UNESCO beat off tough competition from other entries with the Young Environmentalist Awards programme which has grown from strength to strength over the past 14 years.

### Presidential Support

"The Young Environmentalist Awards not only recognise and reward those inspirational young people who raise awareness of environmental issues and try to find solutions to difficult problems; they also encourage young people to get involved, to suggest new answers to old questions and to be resourceful as they work together to find new ideas, new ways of thinking and to question some of the perceived inevitabilities by which we live".

- Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

■ See inside for a picture parade of the YEA Showcase and Ceremony

### Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Welcome to the sixth edition of ECO-UNESCO News. It has been a very busy and exciting year for us and I greatly look forward to sharing with you our upcoming events, trainings and programmes in 2013/14.

2013 marked an expansion of our current programmes with the addition of Green Pathways, a new youth employment programme for under 25s, run under the Momentum initiative. Focused on enhancing the career and education opportunities of young job seekers, this FETAC accredited programme offers specialist green training, career development and work placement and is playing an important part in the lives of its participants, growing their confidence, communication skills and future job and education prospects.

Our other youth and educational programmes such as the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), DPSM workshops, Y-PEP-YSD Peer Education Programme, Clubs and ECO-Youth Choices continue to have a positive and real impact on the lives and local environments of people all over Ireland. In spring 2013, the effectiveness of our flagship programme, the YEA, was acknowledged by the Energy Globe Award committee. This committee rewards successful sustainable projects and chose the YEA as the National Winner for Ireland for our work in helping to conserve and protect the world's natural resources.

Of course ECO-UNESCO is still the organisation of choice, not only for young people, but also for teachers, leaders, youth workers and anybody seeking continuous professional development in environmental education, sustainability or youth work. Through our short trainings and FETAC accredited programmes, people seeking to enhance their CVs or environmental knowledge will find a number of beneficial and interesting courses to choose from. With trainings delivered in house or as outreach, people's accessibility to this knowledge is easier than ever!

I look forward to ECO-UNESCO continuing to deliver top quality environmental and youth programmes and serving as a leader in youth environmental education and empowerment. I invite you to take this journey with us, and my thanks for your continued support.

Elaine Nevin  
National Director, ECO-UNESCO



### Get Involved!

The YEA empowers young people (10-18 years) to build awareness of environmental issues and promote simple lifestyle changes to improve the environment, both locally and/or globally. Participants are supported by ECO-UNESCO to follow the '6 Steps to Success' programme which enables them to complete an environmental action project on their chosen theme.

To register your group or for more information on ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards contact  
E: [yea@ecounesco.ie](mailto:yea@ecounesco.ie)  
T: 01 662 54 91  
or visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie)

#### ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2014 Timeline:

**Sep-Oct 2013:** Regional Roadshow-FREE TRAINING for all registered groups  
**Friday 29th November 2013:** Project registration deadline  
**Friday 28th February 2014:** Project submission deadline  
**March - April 2014:** Regional ECO-Dens semi-finals  
**May 2014:** Gala Showcase and Awards Ceremony 2014

### Help ECO-UNESCO support young people to become the future caretakers of the environment!

ECO-UNESCO is a non-profit organisation, and relies on your support to develop and carry out environmental awareness programmes for Ireland's young people. Why not become a member and enjoy discounts on our trainings, or make a once off donation of €5 and help us continue our work!

Donate online now!  
[www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie)  
Call (01) 662 5491



## Kids and Teens Nature Camps

**ECO-Explorers 5-12 years:** Running for the past 3 years, this popular and unique nature camp takes place in the heart of the city centre and allows children to get up close to wildlife, go on bug safaris and outdoor adventures, build hedgehog houses, play interactive games and get involved in creative recycling with arts and crafts activities! Book now for our 2013/2014 Halloween, Christmas, Easter and Summer Camps and avail of our early bird prices!

**Teen Camp:** This camp for 13-16 year olds made another successful return in August 2013 with young people learning all about the natural heritage of various habitats close to Dublin's City Centre along with biodiversity workshops and trips to the River Liffey, Grand Canal Dock and various urban parklands. Book now for the 2014 camp!

**Get Involved!** Visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) to book online or email [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie) for more information



## DPSM Programmes

ECO-UNESCO is an official Discover Primary Science and Maths accredited centre offering a range of environmental workshops which link into the formal primary school science and maths curricula. Workshops are run to suit all ages and can be delivered in our easily accessible city centre location at the Greenhouse, or can be delivered as outreach anywhere in the country!



**Book Now!** Email [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie) or t: 01 662 5491



## Green Pathways Youth Employment Programme

In 2013 ECO-UNESCO ran three Green Pathways programmes. Funded under the Momentum initiative, Green Pathways is a training and employment programme for jobseekers aged 25 and under. The aim of the programme is to progress young people on to paid employment in

the green economy, or on to further and higher education. Green Pathways provides participants with a valuable workplace experience, a FETAC accreditation and helps build confidence, communications and assertiveness skills.

**Enrolling now for Sep 9th start date!**

**Get Involved!** For details on upcoming courses contact [greenpathways@ecounesco.ie](mailto:greenpathways@ecounesco.ie)!

## National Youth Seminar: Young People and Europe



Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD delivering the keynote address at the 'Young People and Europe' Seminar

Celebrating Ireland's Presidency of the EU, ECO-UNESCO held a youth seminar 'Young People & Europe: Exploring the EU, Green Employment & Ireland's EU Presidency' on April 11th in the Greenhouse. The seminar provided over 60 young people with the opportunity to discuss, engage and learn more about Ireland's EU Presidency and EU policy on youth, citizenship and green employment with an expert panel. Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD delivered the keynote address on the day while experts including Emer Costello MEP provided a valuable insight into the youth employment and EU citizenship to the participants.

**Get Involved!** Our next youth seminar will take place in November! Contact [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie) to find out more!

## Youth For Sustainable Development (Y-PEP Programme)



YTG Peer Education Group

ECO-UNESCO's YSD Peer Educators have completed an impressive action packed year full of events and adventures with plenty in store over the next few months.

The Youth Top Gardeners group kicked off the year by using up-cycled materials to turn an outdoor area at the Greenhouse into a rooftop garden that now grows a variety of tasty, wholesome vegetables and colourful flowers. "If we can do it, you can do it" is the motto of the YTG and the project aims to create awareness and educate people about rooftop gardens

and all their potential benefits including food security, mitigating climate change, community building and reducing unemployment and waste. The YTG were joint winners of the Overall Senior Award at the 2013 Young Environmentalist Awards.

**Join Us!** We welcome young people to our YSD Programme each October. Come to the Greenhouse and make new friends, learn about sustainability and the environment, embark on outdoor adventures and learn how to take action to raise awareness amongst your peers!

**Get Involved!** Contact [ysd@ecounesco.ie](mailto:ysd@ecounesco.ie) to find out more



(L-R) Mark Bennett, Sarah Gallagher, Conn O'Cleirigh and Elaine Nevin with Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland on his arrival to the YEA.

SAYSWACC, the Overall Junior 2013 Winners pictured with Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland and Elaine Nevin

Super Junior winners Planet Pals with their supporters

Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Clare Byrne pictured with Elaine Nevin and YEA participants

## Training Courses @ The Greenhouse & As Outreach

Along with workshops to schools and youth groups, ECO-UNESCO also offers a range of short and accredited training courses suited to a wide range of stakeholders such as; young people, formal and non-formal educators, professionals, academics, youth leaders, job-seekers and the general public. Trainings are offered in areas such as Sustainable Development, Community Gardening, Environmental Education, Community Development, EPV courses and Youth Work training. These are delivered in the Greenhouse or can also be delivered as outreach in your area.

**Get Involved!** Contact [training@ecounesco.ie](mailto:training@ecounesco.ie) to find the perfect course for you!



**FETAC Accredited Courses**  
 Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC L5)  
 ECO-Community Development (FETAC L5)  
 Peer Education for Sustainable Development (FETAC L5)



ECO-Sustainability Award winners receiving their certificates from Patrick Coleman (Irish Aid) and Elaine Nevin (ECO-UNESCO)

## ECO-Sustainability Award For Organisations

In 2013 the Cavan Centre became the first ever organisation to achieve the status of a Gold ECO-Sustainability Award recipient. Our congratulations to them and to the following organisations for their sustainable achievements in 2013: Rehab Care Bray (Silver), Cavan Youthreach (Bronze), Our Garden, Cork (Bronze), Ramelton Community Youth Project-Treesome Kids (Bronze).

ECO-UNESCO is now calling on youth and community organisations to participate in the ECO-Sustainability Award Programme 2013/2014! Programme participants are provided training and a step-by-step guide to improve their organisation's sustainability using the Millennium Development Goals and Comhar's Principles of Sustainable Development.

**Get Involved!** For more information contact [ysd@ecounesco.ie](mailto:ysd@ecounesco.ie)

## ECO-UNESCO: Local to Global

### Youth Exploring Rio+20-UNESCO Clubs Transnational Meeting:

Funded by the Youth in Action fund, ECO-UNESCO hosted young people from UNESCO clubs in Italy, Latvia, Malta and Ireland in the Greenhouse for a 2 day meeting in November 2012. The groups met with key politicians and policy makers to have their voices heard about how to make our world a better place. Following lively workshops, discussion and talks, the young people returned to their home countries to carry out an action project to engage their local policy makers.

In 2013, National Director Elaine Nevin made a return visit to these clubs to see these projects in

action and learn about their progress.

With support from Léargas funding, ECO-UNESCO hosted **workshops and education sessions** for educators from all over Europe which focused on the areas of Education for Sustainable Development, active citizenship and ECO-UNESCO's work in the area of education and training.

**World Environment Education Congress 2013:**  
 In June 2013 ECO-UNESCO's National Director attended the 5 day WEEC in Morocco taking in workshops, presentations and keynote address from Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO and Vandana Shiva.



Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Clare Byrne pictured with Elaine Nevin and X-Hale

## ECO-Youth Choices: Promoting Positive Choices

X-Hale, an ECO-Youth Choices group took home the ECO Health and Wellbeing prize at the 2013 YEA for their docudrama "It's your life, it's your choice". Using a split screen, the film raised awareness on the risks of smoking and the benefits of quitting by following the life of a smoker and non-smoker. The EYC programme aims to channel the energy of young people into positive action; empowering them to improve and protect themselves, others and their environment.

**Get Involved!** For more information contact [drugsed@ecounesco.ie](mailto:drugsed@ecounesco.ie)

## Facilities at The Greenhouse



**Visit The Greenhouse**  
 The Greenhouse is open to the public 9.30am - 5.00pm (Mon - Fri) 17 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2

**Facilities**  
**Ground Floor:** ECO-UNESCO information desk, IEN members' information, Exhibition space, Kids zone, Chill out zone, Resource library  
**1st Floor:** Event space (facilitates up to 90 people)  
**2nd Floor:** Meeting room (facilitates up to 30 people), Hot desk offices  
**3rd Floor:** ECO-UNESCO offices and meeting rooms  
**Other Features:** DPSM and FETAC accredited centre, Wifi, All rooms are wheelchair accessible

**Room Bookings**  
 For bookings and further information about the Greenhouse facilities, contact ECO-UNESCO at [roombookings@ecounesco.ie](mailto:roombookings@ecounesco.ie) | +353 (0)1 662 5491



## Save The Date!

There's always something exciting going on at ECO-UNESCO. For the most up-to-date information on trainings and events, visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter

### Autumn/Winter Training

- 27 Sep:** ECO Sustainability Award Training
- 1 Oct:** Drug Prevention Training for Trainers (ECO-CHOICES)
- 10 Oct:** Youth Work & Sustainability Training
- 15 Oct:** ECO-Community Garden Training
- 15 Oct:** Youth Leadership & ECO-Skills
- 27 Nov:** Leadership & Strategic Sustainable Development

## Enrolling Now!

### Accredited Training

- FETAC Level 5** Introduction to Sustainable Development
- 19 Sep:** 10 week evening course run each Thursday
- 04-05 Oct & 08-09 Nov:** Intensive Course (held over two weekends)
- FETAC Level 5** Peer Education for Sustainable Development
- 18-19 Oct & 22-23 Nov:** Intensive Course (held over two weekends)
- FETAC Level 5 & 6** Green Pathways Training Programme for Jobseekers
- 9 Sep:** 22 week course

### Highlights 2013/14

- Weekly:** Exhibitions & Green Trails of Dublin at the Greenhouse
- Weekly:** Peer Education | ECO-Youth Choices | Green Teen Club
- Ongoing:** Environmental Trainings & Workshops on request (including DPSM workshops)
- Sep:** Launch of 2014 Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA)
- 22 Sep:** In Town Without My Car Day
- Sep-Oct:** Regional YEA Roadshow
- 7 Oct:** World Habitat Day
- 29 Oct-01 Nov:** ECO-Explorers Halloween Camp
- 10 Nov:** Tree Day
- 28-29 Nov:** National Youth ECO-Forum
- 29 Nov:** YEA 2014 Registration Deadline
- 28 Feb:** YEA Project Submission Deadline
- March:** YEA Regional ECO-Dens
- April:** ECO-Explorers Holiday Camp
- May:** YEA Showcase & Awards Ceremony
- July-August:** ECO-Explorers and Teen Summer Camps

# ECO-UNESCO Bulletin Board



## Environmental Youth Events and Activities

ECO-UNESCO organises a packed calendar of environmental events and activities based around key environmental days and themes every year, bringing young people from across Ireland together for conservation, education and adventure! Join us for our upcoming national seminar in November, get involved with our Green Teen Youth Club or YSD programme, go on one of our teen camps or get involved in an ECO-UNESCO club! There's plenty to do, lots of friends to be made and plenty of exploring and discovery to enjoy!

**Get Involved!** Contact [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie) or see [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) for a calendar of exciting events and activities for young people.

## ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards FREE Regional Training

Free training sessions to teachers, leaders and young people throughout September and October 2013! These training sessions will provide you with all you need to know about the YEA programme and are especially worthwhile for new comers. They help turn young peoples' interest in the environment into action, giving them lots of ideas on what they can do. The session offers great advice in developing project ideas, exploring the steps of project management and helping to understand the various phases of the programme in a fun and interactive environment.

**Contact [yea@ecounesco.ie](mailto:yea@ecounesco.ie) today to secure your place!**

## Young Citizens for Water-National Youth ECO-Forum

Are you aged 15-18 and interested in issues of the human right to water, food security, water quality, EU citizenship and green employment? Then join us for our 2 day national youth seminar with guest speakers, discussion and debate and take part in our film training workshop where you'll learn all the skills you need to make your own short film on water issues! **Book your free place now: Contact [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie)**

## Resources: Books, CD, Information Posters

ECO-UNESCO publishes a range of educational materials for youth workers, teachers and anyone interested in environmental education and education for sustainable development. Resources are available for individual purchase or in specially selected bundle options including the Junior ECO-Pack (age 4-12) and Senior ECO-Pack (age 13-18) which are ideal editions to any public or school library.

**ORDER YOUR RESOURCES NOW!** For a full list of resources or to order contact [communications@ecounesco.ie](mailto:communications@ecounesco.ie) or check out resources on our website [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie)



## My Experience at ECO-UNESCO

My name is Stephanie and I am on work experience with ECO-UNESCO from University of Limerick for 9 months. There are a variety projects that I am helping out on during my time here and I am getting a lot of experience in administration, research and building on my IT skills. Each day brings something new and I am meeting many interesting people from various different backgrounds in my work. I have been given a lot of stimulating jobs to do so far

including helping to organise a market place event in the Greenhouse and soon I will be involved in other events such as Culture Night and the National Youth ECO-Forum which will help develop my skill set even further. My time so far with ECO-UNESCO has been great. I don't come from an 'eco' background, I study politics, but my time with ECO-UNESCO has made me consider looking at the politics around the environment as I continue with my education.

