

Ireland's Young Environmentalists rewarded for their ECO-Action!



Mr. Patrick McKeever, from UNESCO Paris along with Councillor Claire Byrne (DCC) pictured at the YEA Showcase and Awards

Over 700 enthusiastic and excited young people from all over Ireland attended the Young Environmentalist Awards Gala Showcase & Awards ceremony on May 13th in the Mansion House, Dublin showcasing their 80 projects making it ECO-UNESCO's biggest and brightest event to date.

The 80 action projects showcased were selected by a panel of ECO Dragons who judged the projects at 5 regional ECO-Dens where young people got the chance to pitch their wide range of projects in categories of waste, biodiversity, climate change, water, eco-community development and more.

Over 39 Awards were presented on the day with pride of place going to the green teens from Scoil Chonglais who were crowned the Overall Senior Winners for their project "B&B for birds and bugs". Scoil Mhuire scooped the Overall Junior Award with 'Blarney Bats Babes' project.

The Super-Junior award for 10-12 yr olds went to projects from The Little Monsters, Tallaght and St. Ibar's National School Wexford. Overall 25 category winners, 12 special award winners, 2 overall winners were announced in the junior (12-15 yr olds) and senior categories (16-18yr old) along with a Super-Junior.

During the Showcase which was opened by Councillor Claire Byrne Dublin City Council, judges visited projects and selected additional special awards for best awareness project, most sustainable project, most innovative group, most passionate group and most creative. Awards were presented by special guests including Mr. Sean Sherlock TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Patrick McKeever from UNESCO Paris and Duncan Stewart from ECO-Eye with the ceremony MC'd by Aidan Power, RTÉ. Young Environmentalists at the youth friendly ceremony were wowed by youth performances from some of the finalists and the Barefeet Theatre Company.

What young people think

"Everyone in the community got involved in the garden, we created for our YEA project and it has allowed us to spread information on the need to improve biodiversity within our local area!"

Young Environmentalist Awards 2015 Finalist

Do you have what it takes to be a young environmentalist?



Some of the finalists pictured at the YEA 2015

For more information on ECO-UNESCO's YEA contact yea@ecounesco.ie or visit www.ecounesco.ie.

ECO-UNESCO is now calling on all 10-18 year olds to register for the Young Environmentalist Awards 2016. Do you have an environmental issue that you would like to do something about? Do you want to meet new people and make new friends? Do you want to take part in Ireland's biggest celebration of youth ECO-Action? All you need to do is go to our website and register online. ECO-UNESCO provides free advice and support to any registered group.

The YEA 2016 Timeline:

Sept-Oct 2015: YEA Roadshow-FREE TRAINING
27th Nov 2015: Project registration deadline
26th February: Project submission deadline

March-April 2016: Regional ECO-Dens semi-finals
May 2016: Gala Showcase and Awards Ceremony

YEA Roadshow coming to your town!

ECO-UNESCO is delighted to offer free YEA training sessions for teachers, leaders and young people throughout September and October 2015! These will provide you with all you need to know on getting involved in the YEA and help turn your interest in the environment into action, giving you lots of ideas on what you can do. The session offers great advice developing project ideas, exploring the YEA '6 Steps to Success' and helping to understand the various phases of the programme in a fun and interactive environment

If you want to get involved in the biggest ECO-Action programme and help raising awareness Contact yea@ecounesco.ie to secure your place!

International recognition for our work!

ECO-UNESCO Clubs Ireland as global partner for the Global Action Programme

ECO-UNESCO Clubs Ireland, as a leader of ESD in Ireland, is delighted to be part of UNESCO's GAP -Global Action Programme Key Partner Network under their key priority area 4 engaging and empowering young people.



ECO-UNESCO was invited to be a Key Partner during 2015 and attended the first meeting in Paris in May. UNESCO's GAP is the key global implementation programme on ESD post the UN Decade of ESD. ECO-UNESCO has played an important role in the advancement of ESD in Ireland and now sits on the Advisory Committee for the implementation of the National Strategy on ESD in Ireland. ECO-UNESCO has two key commitments for the GAP in its YEA and YSD peer education programme. This is a great opportunity to highlight our successful projects as well as to scale up existing programmes and to develop synergies with other organisations focused on ESD around the world. With the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, UNESCO's GAP programme is one of the key mechanisms for implementing the education element of the goals. Youth empowerment, mobilisation and education are key ways we can address global environmental challenges, like Climate Change.



ECO-UNESCO Director Elaine Nevin pictured with other attendees to the UNESCO GAP Conference

What's So Hot About Climate Change Road to Paris!

To address one of the biggest challenges facing young people in the world today, ECO-UNESCO will host an exciting Youth ECO Forum in Dublin on Climate Change in October 2015. The 3-day ECO Forum funded by Léargas ERASMUS+ will include over 70 young people from six different European countries (Italy, Albania, Romania, Norway, Czech Republic) creating a platform for young people to engage with the forthcoming COP21 (UN Climate Change Conference in Paris) by sharing knowledge, meeting policy makers and creating Local Action Plans for their own communities.

Get involved! For further information e-mail us at youthforum@ecounesco.ie



Picture Parade: ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony 2015



Super Junior winners: young people from St. Ibar's National School with their project 'Beautiful Bugs and Butterflies'



Overall Junior Winners: Young people from Scoil Mhuire gan Smál for their project 'Blarney Bats Babes'



At the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2015, overall winners with their project 'B&B for birds and bugs' from Scoil Chonglais with Elaine Nevin, Director of ECO-UNESCO, Mark Bennett, ECO-UNESCO's chairperson and guest of honour Patrick McKeever from UNESCO Paris



Aidan Power from RTÉ MC at the Awards Ceremony



ECO Art & Sustainability winners: Young people from Moate Community School with their project 'Mediva'



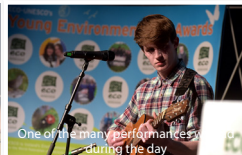
Junior - Transport winner: Young people from Coláiste Pobail Sentana with their project 'Transport Transformers'



Minister for Foreign Affairs Sean Sherlock TD during his keynote address



Super Junior winners: Young people from The Little Monsters with their project 'Operation Cooperation'



One of the many performances during the day

Would you like to support young environmentalists raising awareness on different issues? If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Young Environmentalist Awards programme please contact yea@ecounesco.ie or director@ecounesco.ie

Director's Message

Dear friends of
ECO-UNESCO,



Welcome to the eighth 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 2015/16.

During 2015 we have been busy with our wide range of youth, education and training programmes where we provided opportunity to thousands of people all across the island of Ireland. Our flagship Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase was the biggest ever with a wide range of quality projects from young people (10-18) on display in the Mansion House, Dublin. This year we were delighted once again to have a representative from UNESCO Paris attending our annual Young Environmentalist Awards and Showcase; Mr. Patrick McKeever who is the Chief of Section at the Global Earth Observation Section attended the Showcase and Awards along with Minister Sean Sherlock TD from the Department of Foreign Affairs. We're now accepting registrations for YEA 2016 and will be on the YEA Roadshow providing free workshops and trainings in schools. Contact us to book your place.

During the year we have been very busy with our YSD programme and have had a record number of young people participating in the weekly workshop, activity and training programme. This year we ran a second year of the Learning2Change programme. Funded through Irish Aids WWGS scheme, Learning2Change has been helping make second level schools more aware of sustainable development issues through teacher and youth trainings, school workshops and local action projects. This programme will continue between September 2015 and May 2016.

Our Momentum funded Green Pathways employment programme is continuing to successfully provide opportunities for long-term unemployed people to gain accredited training to assist them progress onto employment. ECO-UNESCO has played an important role in the advancement of ESD in Ireland and we now sit on the Advisory Committee for the implementation of the National Strategy on ESD. Internationally, UNESCO is taking the lead in the post UN Decade on ESD programme called GAP – ECO-UNESCO Clubs was invited to be a key partner in their Key Partner Network under their key priority area 4 – engaging and empowering young people for the implementation of GAP in Ireland and globally and we attended the first meeting in Paris in May 2015. Continuing our international engagement we also attended the World Congress on Environmental Education and presented on our work in youth engagement and empowerment through our programmes.

This year there are important international events happening with the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals in September by the UN. To celebrate we will be hosting an event in October - check out our website for further details. In December, Climate Change will once again be the focus at the COP21 in Paris; to highlight this ECO-UNESCO is hosting an international Youth ECO Forum on Climate Change 'What's so Hot About Climate Change; Road to Paris' in October giving young people a chance to discuss, debate and have their voices heard.

During the next year we will be continuing our work of conserving the environment and empowering young people; we would like all of you to get involved with us and invite you to join us and become a member of the organisation and help us in our work. For opportunities on how you can get involved in any way please visit our website.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Until next time,
Elaine Nevin
National Director, ECO-UNESCO

Youth for Sustainable Development; Global Youth Leaders for Change

A busy year for our peer educators!

YSD goes regional!



ECO-UNESCO's YSD Global Youth Leaders for Change Programme is continuing to grow from strength to strength with over 120 young people from all over Dublin participating in a weekly programme and activities. 2015 has been a very busy year for the group with a lot more events and activities planned for the months ahead. Along with winning four awards at the Young Environmentalist Awards in May, the young people have also been occupied bringing their message to many others through presenting at the UNICEF's Youth Summit, the Skellig foundation roundtable event on sustainability chaired by Jeremy Irons; the NYCI roundtable event on DE and also Trócaire's Climate Challenge Conference. The young people even took their message to the road by cycling from Dublin to Drogheda to meet with other young people to tell why educating people about sustainable Development is so important. During the summer the rest of the group have been preparing themselves for COP21 coming up in December.

ECO-UNESCO with assistance from Trocaire and Concern Worldwide is delighted to offer opportunities to young people regionally to participate in our YSD; Global Youth leaders for Change Programme. This programme inspires, challenges and motivates young people to act locally in favour of sustainable development. Three new ECO-UNESCO clubs are being established in the Louth/Meath ETB area. They are based in Slane Youth Café, Bomerang Youth Café in Drogheda and Dundalk Youth Centre. Over twenty volunteer youth leaders are being trained currently by ECO-UNESCO to run these clubs and deliver our YSD and Young Environmentalist Awards Programme. ECO-UNESCO is looking forward to working closely with these new clubs in the year ahead and seeing some of the exciting activities and projects that the young people will be undertaking!

This is a great way to make friends, learn about sustainability and the environment and get involved in creative awareness raising activities.

Get Involved! Are you between the ages of 15 and 17 and want to get involved?

If so please visit our website at www.ecounesco.ie or e-mail us at ysd@ecounesco.ie or call us at 016625491! The next intake for our programme is October 2015



ECO-UNESCO Clubs



way for encouraging like-minded young people with an interest in the environment to get together and have fun!

With over 160 Clubs all around Ireland, 2015 was a very busy year for our Clubs programme! 23 of our Clubs made it to the YEA finals, 13 of them scooped a prize with the ECO-UNESCO Club from Scoil Chonglais winning the Overall Senior Award with their project "B&B for birds and bugs" During 2016, ECO-UNESCO will keep providing support and resources to the young people willing to set up an ECO-UNESCO Club in their school or community. Clubs are an exciting

Why not set up your own Club and become part of a network of young people throughout Ireland taking action to conserve our environment? Just e-mail us at clubs@ecounesco.ie!

ECO-Explorers -

Adventuring in the park!

Our ECO-Explorers were spotted 'Adventuring', a term they themselves used to describe their environmental fun activities, around Dublin's parks. Along with the annual Easter Camp a further 5 weeks of camps were held over the summer. These camps are for children aged 5-12yrs, and combine fun games, art based activities, nature learning with



Greener job opportunities for Dublin!



James Core at Rothar, Phibsboro

Green Pathways II – Environmental Studies and Skills continues to create opportunities for over 70 participants in Dublin to gain experience and skills in the new developing green economy. ECO-UNESCO's successful 'Green Pathways II' is building upon our past experience and the success of 'Green Pathways I' programme that ran in 2013-2014 with 80 participants.

The aim of this Momentum funded programme is to progress participants who have been unemployed for more than one year, onto employment. Whilst this course is open to all ages it is specifically focused on the under 25's. The six month programme includes QQI accredited trainings, mentoring support & guidance, work placements along with employment support.

The success of the Green Pathways programme to date has seen many of our participants go on to secure employment and we continue to support both current and past participants through monthly job clubs to find their progression to employment.

One past participant of the programme stated that: "I am standing here today as the Store Manager of Rothar in Phibsboro; Green Pathways has guided me in the right direction and created a dream pathway for me." James Core ECO-UNESCO, Green Pathways now employed with Rothar, Phibsboro.

If you are interested in the Green Pathways programme check your eligibility with your case officer at your local Department of Social Protection office.



MOMENTUM
FOCUS YOUR TALENT

Get Involved! Are you interested in learning more about the green economy? Then contact us at greenpathways@ecounesco.ie or call us at 01 662 5491!

Young people lead the way!

The ECO-Choices programme continued to do great work with a number of enthusiastic young people in youth services and secondary schools during 2015. Young people from the ECO Choices drug prevention programme, have been involved in peer led community clean ups, as well as the development of a beautiful community garden.

Along with this students in secondary schools were involved in community based work placements developing the skills to become peer leaders which included facilitating environmental workshops for other students in their own schools! The culmination of all these activities was the completion of a QQI level 3 Community Participation Course. ECO Choices participants also took advantage of participating in many Eco outward bound days to various locations in and around Dublin including Barnasliogan Wood and Bull Island!

Get Involved! If your group or school would like to take part in this innovative programme, contact us at ecochoices@ecounesco.ie!



Is your school inspired to make a change? Then e-mail us at learning2change@ecounesco.ie!



Young people working on a project at an ECO-UNESCO Learning2Change workshop

Community Organisations rewarded!



This year REHAB Stillorgan were awarded an ECO Sustainability Award for all their hard work and effort in aiming to make their centre more environmentally sustainable for all who avail of services there. This was a joint

effort by clients and staff who worked really hard throughout the year carrying out an audit of their centre along with deciding on what actions were needed to make their centre more sustainable. The ECO-Sustainability Award aims to encourage youth and community organisations to become more sustainable by providing organisations with training, on-going support and a practical toolkit. Sustainability is not just about "being Green" it is also about social equity, inclusion and justice – in all dimensions of our lives. The ECO Sustainability Award is about developing and promoting the skills, attitudes and behaviour that both adults and young people need to create more sustainable organisations.

Do you want to get your community or youth organisation rewarded?

Contact us at ysd@ecounesco.ie to get involved!



North West Healthy Living Communities!

ECO-UNESCO completed the delivery of a very successful healthy living programme across the north west of Ireland in conjunction with various local authorities including Donegal, Limavady and Magherafelt led by Stabane District Council. This programme delivered in 3 stages, with workshops on healthy living options and gardening to nearly 1,000 young people in primary schools; non-accredited Train the Trainer for adult community groups involved in local allotments and community gardening projects; and finally QQI accredited trainings including Outdoor Crop production L3 and Growing Vegetables L4 which were delivered in a number of locations to various community groups across the region. This programme not only informed people of all ages about the benefits of gardening and growing your own vegetables but also of the importance and value of conserving and protecting our environment to ensure a healthy lifestyle for all into the future!

ECO-UNESCO is available to deliver training programmes in your area. Contact us at training@ecounesco.ie!



daily excursions to Dublin's Green spaces. Some of the many activities children enjoy during camps include building bug hotels (and finding bugs to go in them!), making bird feeders, creative recycling, seed planting, scavenger hunts, nature art and a concert showcasing their activities on the last day for parents!

Have you got some young ECO-Explorer at home willing to go 'adventuring' then why not book them in for our future camps!

Book Now! for our 2015 Halloween Camp and also for our Easter and Summer ECO-Explorer camps in 2016! E-mail us at youth@ecounesco.ie



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 or follow us on Facebook or Twitter

Highlights 2015/16

Weekly: YSD/Green Teen Club/ECO-Choices

Ongoing: Environmental Trainings & Workshops on request

Sept: Launch of the Young Environmentalist Awards

Sept-Oct: YEA Roadshow

15 Oct: Youth Leadership & ECO-Skills

17 Oct: ECO-Community Gardening

28-31 Oct: ECO-Explorers Halloween Camp

14 Nov: Leadership and Strategic Sustainable Dev.

27 Nov: YEA Project Submission

March: YEA Regional ECO-Dens

7-10 April: ECO-Explorers Easter Camp

May: YEA Showcase & Awards Ceremony

July-August: ECO-Explorers and Teen Summer Camps

Training Courses

ECO-UNESCO 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 ECO-UNESCO's headquarters or can also be delivered as outreach in your area.

Get Involved! contact training@ecounesco.ie to find the perfect course for you!

ECO-UNESCO does science!

ECO-UNESCO has been busy delivering a number of DPSM workshops in primary schools around the Dublin area on the popular topic of biodiversity! ECO-UNESCO is a Discovery Primary Science and Maths centre and runs a range of workshops for primary level children that can be delivered either in our centre or directly in schools nationwide including topics such as energy and water. Workshops are available throughout the academic year and are highly flexible, active and engaging.

Get Involved! Book a DPSM Workshop for your school now contacting us at youth@ecounesco.ie or calling us at 01 662 5491

ECO-UNESCO was represented this year at the annual Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) AGM Conference in Prague by Thomas Maguire one of our voluntary youth leaders on our Youth for Sustainable Development; Global Youth Leaders for Change peer education programme (YSD). This year the YEE held a 4 day training programme for young environmental leaders on how to undertake action projects with young people. Thomas presented on some of the great work we are doing here at ECO-UNESCO including our YSD

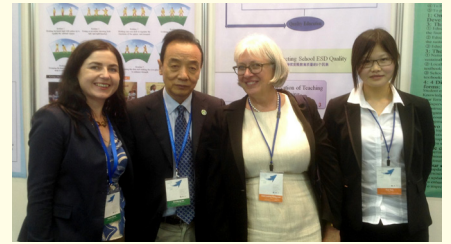
ECO-UNESCO's European and International Work

ECO-UNESCO works on projects, initiatives and events on an all-Ireland, European and international basis. ECO-UNESCO is linked to a global network of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations. Some of the highlights of our work in 2015 have included:

UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

The UNESCO World Conference on ESD marked the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), celebrating the achievements made for the last ten years, and saw the launch of the new Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD. The Conference was attended by over 1,000 participants, including 67 ministries, and closed with the unanimous adoption of the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration. The Declaration calls for urgent action to mainstream ESD in the post-2015 development agenda and on all nations to implement the GAP on ESD. Prior to the Conference, the UE4SD partnership formally

committed to the GAP through supporting the ESD professional development of university educators. ECO-UNESCO Clubs Ireland was delighted to attend the conference as the Irish representative. We are now delighted to be part of a Key Partner Network for the achievement and advancement of ESD in Ireland and throughout the world.



Elaine Nevin pictured with other attendees to the UNESCO World Conference on ESD

World Environmental Education Congress

ECO-UNESCO, as a leader in environmental education and education for sustainable development



attended the WEEC. Elaine Nevin presented on ECO-UNESCO's experience of 'Youth Engagement and Empowerment through Action Projects and Peer Education - Case Studies of ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards and Youth for Sustainable Development Programmes' on the 30th of June during one of the parallel sessions. The WEEC2015 is an international meeting point for everyone working with Education for Environment and Sustainable Development. WEEC 2015 is an opportunity to learn more about the latest in environmental and sustainability education, to discuss with people from all over the world, to share their work and to hear from global experts about the latest in environmental research, industry policy developments, and educational programs.

University Educators for Sustainable Development

ECO-UNESCO is continuing to be part of University Educators for Sustainable Development" (UE4SD), a three year project funded by the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme - Erasmus Academic Networks. The project is working across Europe and aims to draw on best practices, new initiatives and usable tools for professional development in ESD for university educators. The project draws together 53 partners across 33 countries, mainly in Europe. In 2015, the focus of U4SD is to develop resources on ESD and professional development in higher education. Plans for the development of a leading practice publication and an online platform of resources will be shared with all partners very soon. The publication will showcase case studies identified as leading practice during the mapping exercise and the online platform will include key information and materials from all UE4SD partner institutions as well as resources developed by external organisations.

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) AGM Conference in Prague

programme, our Young Environmentalist Awards Programme and our upcoming international ECO forum in October entitled "What's so Hot about Climate Change - the road to Paris." Thomas joined the programme three years ago and is now a voluntary youth leader assisting with the delivery and facilitation of workshops and events for other young people, sharing with them his positive experiences and learning from the programme.



Do you see yourself becoming a future global leader for change? Then contact us at ysd@ecounesco.ie or call us at 016625491!

We have moved!

ECO-UNESCO has moved office and is located at 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7 over the summer months. ECO-UNESCO's summer Camps and courses are continuing in C2, The Complex, 51 Benburb Street, Dublin 7. We will be moving to our new premises, located at 9 Burgh Quay Dublin 2 in October. Feel free to drop in and say hello!



Environmental Education Resources!

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. Check out our new Biodiversity Superpowers resource!

Order your resources now! For a full list of resources and to order contact info@ecounesco.ie or check out www.ecounesco.ie!

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