

# ECO-UNESCO News

Issue 7 / 2014/2015



## The Young Environmentalist Awards - Young People Island Wide Taking Real ECO-Action



(L) Senior Winners of the YEA 2014 'Yes We Can' from Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo and (R) Junior Winners of the 2014 YEA 'Susan's Trail' from Draperstown, Co. Derry.

Both groups are pictured with Mr. Han Qunli (UNESCO), Minister Charlie Flanagan TD and Elaine Nevin (National Director ECO-UNESCO).

### Rewarding ECO-Youth in Action!

Now in its sixteenth year, ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is an initiative open to young people aged 10-18 years from across the 32 counties of Ireland. The programme sees groups from schools, youth and community organisations come up with real solutions to a host of local and global environmental issues.

The 2014 YEA was the biggest celebration of youth eco-action to date with 75 projects involving over 650 young people; making it through to the National Final in the Mansion House in May. These groups had qualified from the four regional heats held nationwide in March.

The Showcase and Awards Ceremony was an opportunity for the finalists to showcase their work to the public and their peers. It was attended by a number of special guests including Mr. Han Qunli, UNESCO's Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences and the Secretary of the Man and the Biosphere Programme, Minister Charlie

Flanagan TD and the Lord Mayor of Dublin Oisín Quinn, while the event was hosted by Aidan Power from RTÉ.

### Congratulations to our 2014 Participants!

Congratulations to everybody who participated in the 2014 YEA. The hard work, dedication and commitment that young people island-wide showed in improving the environment was truly inspiring. The judges at the ECO-Dens were bowled over by all of the presentations delivered, making it a tough job to choose just 75 for the Showcase and Ceremony! This year, young people from St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo scooped the Overall Senior Award while St. Colm's High School, Draperstown, Co. Derry took the Overall Junior Award. The Super Junior Award was jointly shared by young people from St. Ibar's National School Wexford and Scoil na nÓg, Co. Cork. For photos, videos and details about the shortlisted projects, please visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie).



Joint Super Junior Winners; 'These Boots are Made for Walking', Co. Wexford (L) and 'Non Native Forestry Plantations', Co. Cork (R).

### The Young Environmentalist Awards 2015-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 2015 Timeline:

**Oct 2014:** YEA Roadshow-FREE TRAINING for all registered groups  
**Friday 28th November 2014:** Project registration deadline  
**Friday 27th February 2015:** Project submission deadline  
**March - April 2015:** Regional ECO-Dens semi-finals  
**May 2015:** Gala Showcase and Awards Ceremony 2015

### ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards '6 Steps to Success' FREE Training

Free training sessions to teachers, leaders and young people throughout October and November 2014! These will provide you with all you need to know about the YEA programme. They help turn young people's 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 YEA '6 Steps to Success' and helping to understand the various phases of the programme in a fun and interactive environment. Contact [yea@ecounesco.ie](mailto:yea@ecounesco.ie) or phone +353 (0)1 662 5491 today to secure your place!

### 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**





# Director's Message



## Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Welcome to the seventh edition of ECO-UNESCO News. 2014 has been a very exciting and busy year for us and I am greatly looking forward to our upcoming programmes, events and trainings for 2014/15.

In 2014 our successful Green Pathways youth employment and training programme culminated with a Market Place Event and Graduation Ceremony for all of our participants with Minister Joan Burton in attendance. Youth unemployment can have a profound effect on young people and it is vital that there are programmes and supports in place to ensure young people have the best possible choices available to them catering for their diverse range of needs and interests. I am therefore delighted to announce that in 2014/15 we will once more be running an employment programme under MOMENTUM. Green Pathways II will provide jobseekers with environmental training, work placement, career guidance, motivation building and employment supports. The programme is open to all but has a specific Under-25 focus and will start in October 2014.

As part of our 2014 Summer programme we delivered 6 weeks of our ECO-Explorers children's camps with record attendance each week. We also ran our Discover Nature in the Park camps with the OPW and Phoenix Park Visitor Centre. This year we linked up with InternsPlus to deliver training courses on ECO-Sustainability to international young people.

Our 2014 Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) was yet again a great success; we were delighted to welcome Mr. Han Quinli from UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme to Ireland for the Young Environmentalist Awards ceremony in May 2014. To launch the YEA 2015 we are partnering

with the European Commission Representation in Ireland and want to encourage as many young people as possible to get involved, carry out a local environmental action project and be rewarded for their efforts.

Throughout the year young people from our YSD-Global Youth Leaders for Change programme have been working hard on a range of projects and initiatives and we would encourage young people aged 15-18 to get involved this year. Our teen and kids' camps, national youth meetings, DPSM programmes and a new Green Connections programme provided plenty of opportunities for young people to get involved with us and we hope to see even more new faces at our events and programmes over the next year.

In 2014 we developed Learning2Change, aimed at encouraging greater engagement in education for sustainable development in secondary schools through trainings and weeks of action. We also started a project called North West Healthy Living programme, aimed at encouraging healthy greener lifestyles through accredited trainings and a schools programme in the North West region.

I would encourage you to sign up to our monthly e-bulletin to find out more about ECO-UNESCO's ongoing work and to become a member to help us continue our work in educating and empowering young people and protecting the natural environment. I look forward to ECO-UNESCO continuing to deliver quality specialist environmental and youth programmes and thank you for your continued interest and support in our organisation.

*Elaine Nevin*

**Elaine Nevin**  
National Director, ECO-UNESCO

## ECO-UNESCO is Running Green Pathways II

ECO-UNESCO is delighted to announce continued funding under MOMENTUM for a Green Pathways II programme. The new programme will begin in October 2014 with further course dates to be added in 2015. Green Pathways II is a 27 week FETAC Level 5+6 programme with work placement, projects and employment supports. The programme will up-skill jobseekers for positions in the green economy such as environmental consultants, horticulturists, energy auditors, gardeners etc. For more information on the programme visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie); E: [greenpathways@ecounesco.ie](mailto:greenpathways@ecounesco.ie) T: (01) 662 5491. To enrol, please contact your local DSP/Intreo Office.

## ECO-UNESCO is Working Locally

ECO-UNESCO runs programmes regionally and locally throughout Ireland. We work with local groups to set up ECO-UNESCO Clubs for young people as well as providing a range of workshops and trainings. We are working with local authorities all across Ireland including county and city councils: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Dublin City, Limerick, Roscommon, Fingal, Galway City, South Dublin, Westmeath; and in Northern Ireland: Ciriagavon Borough Council among others on programmes including: YEA and YEA 6 Steps to Success; ECO-Community Garden Training; ECO Water Watchers and ECO Energy Watchers Workshops; Global Responsibilities - Fashion Focused workshop series; and BiodiverCITY trails.

## ECO-UNESCO's Employment & Training Programmes - Green Pathways

In 2013/14 ECO-UNESCO ran the first of our Green Pathways employment programmes for jobseekers Under 25. Funded under the MOMENTUM initiative, the FETAC level 5+6 programme up-skilled young people for jobs in the green economy. Along with receiving accredited training, all participants completed a work placement which allowed many a valuable 'foot in the door' and networking opportunity with potential employers.

The success of Green Pathways, which saw many of its participants go on to secure employment or further education places; was celebrated with a Market Place Event and Graduation Ceremony in April 2014. Here the participants had the opportunity to showcase their skills to prospective employers; engaged in a Q+A; and received their certificates. An Tánaiste Joan Burton, Minister for Social Protection, delivered the keynote address on the day, along with meeting with the young people and providing words of encouragement to the Green Pathways graduates and praise for the quality of the programme.



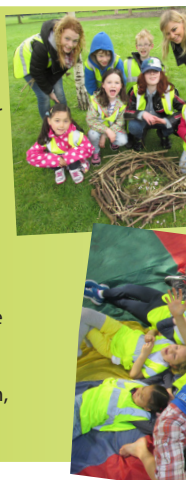
Tánaiste Joan Burton, pictured with Mark Bennett (Chairperson ECO-UNESCO); Elaine Nevin (National Director ECO-UNESCO) and Green Pathways participants Shane Coombes and Doireann Nicholls.



Green Pathways participants pictured at their Graduation with ECO-UNESCO staff

## Kids and Teens Nature Camps

**ECO-Explorers 5-12 years:** With over 100 children participating during the summer, ECO-UNESCO's ECO-Explorers nature camps are a popular and unique way to learn about nature in the heart of Dublin city centre. The camps 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 2014/2015 Halloween, Mid-Term, Easter and Summer Camps and avail of our early bird prices!





## Youth Empowerment - Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD)

ECO-UNESCO's YSD Global Youth Leaders for Change Peer Education Programme has once again had a jam packed year with plenty more activities coming up over the next few months. Throughout the year the various YSD groups have produced an award winning film on Food Security and as a result visited Uganda through Concern's Food Right Now Video Campaign; taken part in the Zambian Barefeet Theatre Group's International Tour, where they participated in the acro-theatrics parade through Temple Bar and performed the supporting drama for the main Barefeet group's two performances in Smock Alley. Four Y-PEPS also participated in the Hungarian International Youth Exchange 'Trashformers' which explored how we can creatively recycle our waste to help build communities. The programme is funded under the new Erasmus + programme focused on creative ways of reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

**Join Us!** We welcome young people to our YSD Programme each October. E: [ysd@ecounesco.ie](mailto:ysd@ecounesco.ie)  
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!



Y-PEPS pictured at the Greenhouse



YSD participants Emmett Farrell and Thomas Maguire pictured during their trip to Uganda

## Healthy Living - Green Connections & ECO Choices

Green Connections, which ran from April to June 2014 focused on empowering young people to deal with mental health issues in a positive way. The programme used the outdoors, eco-therapy and eco-action projects to build resilience, improve self-esteem and get young people more connected to their local community. The programme was part funded under the NYCI's Healthy Ireland fund. In October 2014, ECO-UNESCO will attend the SPHE Teachers Conference to highlight the programme and its benefits to second level teachers.

## ECO-Youth Choices

ECO-UNESCO will start working with the North West Inner City Network in September 2014 on our ECO-Choices drug prevention programme. We are also taking participants aged over 18 from 'at risk' communities onto our FETAC Level 3 Community Participation Course also beginning in September. If you have a group that you think might be suited to this contact Gareth at [ecochoices@ecounesco.ie](mailto:ecochoices@ecounesco.ie).

## National Youth Meeting: Young Citizens for Water

During 2013 and 2014, over 60 young people were involved in a Leargas Youth in Action funded project 'Young Citizens for Water'. The project included a two day youth seminar on water related issues including access, supply and importance of adequate water resources both nationally and internationally. In January 2014, the young people participated in a film making workshop, returned to their local areas and created an awareness raising film on local water issues. These films were premiered at the 2014 YEA in May and officially launched by Minister Charlie Flanagan.

Young participants at the Young Citizens for Water National Meeting



Young Citizens for Water National Meeting participants on their film training day

**Teen Camp:** This camp for 13-16 year olds ran for one week in July 2014 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 2015 camp!

**Get Involved!**  
Visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) to book online

ECO-Explorers enjoying ECO-UNESCO's children's camps



## ECO-UNESCO's New Secondary School Programme - Learning2Change Our World

Learning2Change Our World is ECO-UNESCO's exciting new project supported by Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools programme and is aimed at both students and teachers in a limited number of post-primary schools. The programme ran from January to May 2014 and will continue to run from September 2014 to May 2015. Through the programme, both teachers and students receive training and up to date knowledge in issues regarding sustainability and development and how these areas affect our local and global communities. The training culminates in the participant's school working together and taking a Learning2Change Week of Action and awareness regarding a local/global issue regarding sustainability.

**Get involved!** For more information contact [learning2change@ecounesco.ie](mailto:learning2change@ecounesco.ie)



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

## Discover Primary Science and Maths (DPSM) Programme

ECO-UNESCO is an official DPSM 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!** E: [education@ecounesco.ie](mailto:education@ecounesco.ie) or T: (01) 662 5491

## ECO-UNESCO Delivering in the North West as Part of North West Healthy Living Community Gardens and Allotments Project

In 2014 ECO-UNESCO was awarded funding to deliver the North West Healthy Living programme, a partnership of local authorities in the North West including Strabane, Limavaddy, Donegal and Magherafelt. The programme provides non-accredited training, QQI accredited courses and a schools programme focused on gardening and health living under the North West Healthy Living Community Gardens and Allotments Project to be delivered to over 2000 people in the next 12 months. Strabane District Council is the leading implementing council in North West Healthy Living Community Gardens and Allotments Project, while ECO-UNESCO is the sole training provider.

## 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

### Highlights 2014/15

**Weekly:** Youth for Sustainable Development/Green Teen Club/ECO-Choices

**Ongoing:** Environmental Trainings & Workshops on request (including DPSM workshops)

**3 Sep:** Launch of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2015

**Oct-Nov:** YEA Roadshow

**22 Sep:** Car Free Day

**6 Oct:** World Habitat Day

**9 Oct:** Tree Day

**13 Oct:** Green Pathways \*

**28-31 Oct:** ECO-Explorers Halloween Camp

**28 Nov:** YEA Project Submission

**March:** YEA Regional ECO-Dens

**22 March:** World Water Day

**7-10 April:** ECO-Explorers Easter Camp

**22 April:** Earth Day

**May:** YEA Showcase & Awards Ceremony

**5 June:** World Earth Day

**July & August:** ECO-Explorers and Teen Summer Camps

\* Additional start dates to be announced in 2015.

## Training Courses @ The Greenhouse & As Outreach

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 the Greenhouse or can also be delivered as outreach in your area.

### Autumn/Winter Training 2014

**20 Sep:** ECO-Sustainability Award Training

**15 Oct:** Youth Leadership & ECO-Skills

**18 Oct:** ECO-Community Gardening

**15 Nov:** Leadership & Strategic Sustainable Development

**Get Involved!** Contact [training@ecounesco.ie](mailto:training@ecounesco.ie) to find the perfect course for you! Please visit our website [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) for details of our one day and FETAC accredited training in 2015

## 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

**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) | T: (01) 662 5491

## 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 2014 have included:

### ECO-UNESCO Irish Partner in University Educators for Sustainable Development - UE4SD

UE4SD (University Educators for Sustainable Development) funded by the European Commission commenced in October 2013 and involves 55 partners in 33 countries over a three year duration. ECO-UNESCO is a partner in this project which is seeking to re-orient higher education curriculum, particularly at third level in order to incorporate sustainable development into third level institutions. In particular the project focuses on support for educators, to enable them to prepare students, regardless of their courses or specialisation, to understand and apply their professional

and global responsibilities in sustainability.

The project includes plans for university staff to develop professional competences and the academic leadership capabilities linked to Education for Sustainable Development. In 2014, ECO-UNESCO issued surveys to all third level institutions regarding the UE4SD programme and encouraged all third level trainers to get involved with the programme.



ECO-UNESCO Director Elaine Nevin pictured with fellow UE4SD North Regional Meeting members at the University of Gloucestershire.

### Discover2Inspire – Youth for Sustainable Living

ECO-UNESCO's National Director Elaine Nevin presented on ECO-UNESCO's work at the five day European conference held in Dundee, Scotland aimed at raising awareness in young people on issues and solutions related to sustainability.

### ECO-UNESCO presents at the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations International Conference 2014

National Director Elaine Nevin attended and presented at the International Conference and 34th Executive Board Meeting of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs Centres and Associations (WFUCA) in New York in March 2014. This six day WFUCA conference was attended by delegates from all around the world, and focused on the issues of global ethics, sustainable development and social media. Elaine also contributed to a panel examining 'The Future We Want' which discussed ethics as a new foundation for sustainable development.

### Get Involved with ECO-UNESCO!

There are a number of ways you can get involved with ECO-UNESCO! Become a member, a volunteer, start or join an ECO-UNESCO Club in your local area, join our Green Teen Club, go on an ECO-Youth Outing, participate in a training programme or in one of our youth programmes such as Youth for Sustainable Development Global Youth Leaders for Change; Learning2Change our World or the Young Environmentalist Awards!

### ECO-Youth Outings

Young people aged 14-18 who wish to explore and enjoy our natural environment have been taking part in our ECO-Youth Outings held one Saturday per month. Led by an ECO-UNESCO Environmental Youth Officer, activities throughout the year include forest walks and hikes around Howth Head, Bray Head and Greystones along with practical conservation work along Ireland's coasts.

The outings are free to members.

**Get Involved!** For more information and dates visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) or E: [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie)

Young people on an ECO-Youth Outing in Bray Head



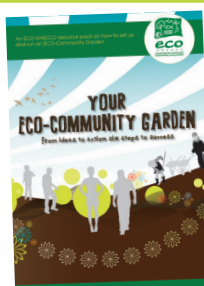
## ECO-Sustainability Award

In 2014 two organisations, Rehab Bray and Clara Youthreach earned the Silver ECO-Sustainability Award while RASP, Laneview Learning Centre scooped the Bronze award. 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)



## 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.

**ORDER YOUR RESOURCES NOW!**

For a full list of resources or to order visit [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie)

or E: [info@ecounesco.ie](mailto:info@ecounesco.ie)