

## Join Ireland's biggest celebration of young people taking ECO-Action!



The ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards programme has been running on an all-island basis for 13 years, with over 25,000 young people becoming involved over that time. Numbers have been growing each year, and in 2011 over 4,000 young people participated, many of them showcasing their projects at an exhibition held in the Mansion House, Dublin, last May.

### Recognising and rewarding green achievements

The aim of the programme is to empower young people to become better citizens, build awareness of environmental issues and promote simple lifestyle changes to improve the environment. They do this by carrying out environmental action projects. Each year ECO-UNESCO recognises and rewards the green achievements of these young people at the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony. Groups of young people aged 10 to 18 look at issues in categories including Energy, Waste, Biodiversity, Water, Climate Change and more.

### Young people take the lead

"Initially, you may be cautious about allowing young people to take the lead but usually they thrive on it. I have been amazed by what the young people can do for themselves when given the chance". **Mary Mullaghy, Irish Science Teachers Association and teacher at Eureka Secondary School, Kells.**

### Innovation: Regional ECO-Dens, going social and more

In 2011, innovative new elements were introduced to the programme, with regional judging through Dragon's Den style ECO-Dens - where groups got the chance to pitch to a panel of experts on how their project makes a difference, and why they should make the final shortlist - and the introduction of the People's Choice Award: a social media driven online public vote for the best project, which saw an incredible 30,000 votes cast over 6 weeks.

### ■ See inside for a picture parade of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony!

### Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

Welcome to the fourth edition of ECO-UNESCO News. This has been an exciting time for ECO-UNESCO, as we made the move to our new premises The Greenhouse on St Andrew Street, Dublin 2. This newsletter will provide you with an insight into all that's been happening here at ECO-UNESCO since the move and, more importantly, how you can get involved!

ECO-UNESCO has consistently led the way as a dynamic, creative and innovative environmental education and youth organisation. Over the past year, we provided opportunities for participation to thousands of young people all across Ireland: helping them to gain knowledge and skills; developing their interests; empowering them to take action; providing them with a voice and helping to create a more sustainable world. I hope you'll get a taste of the great work carried out from reading these pages.

ECO-UNESCO has become the organisation of choice for many young people, teachers and leaders seeking continuous professional development in environmental education, sustainability and youth work. Our FETAC accredited education centre has built on this in recent times through the provision of trainings to thousands of participants both in The Greenhouse and nationwide on an outreach and consultancy basis.

Into the future, we will continue to innovate in response to environmental concerns, and the challenges of the economic climate. We will work to consolidate ECO-UNESCO's position as Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation; to provide outstanding programmes for young people, leaders and teachers and - above all - to empower young people throughout Ireland to make a difference among their peers, in their communities and beyond.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, and for your continued interest and support.

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

### Get Involved!

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 2012 Timeline:

**Friday 25th November 2011** - project registration deadline  
**Friday 24th February 2012** - project submission deadline  
**May 2012** - ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Awards Ceremony 2012

### 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

### ECO-UNESCO - celebrating 25 years of environmental protection and youth empowerment!

This year ECO-UNESCO celebrates its 25th anniversary and we would like you to tell us your ECO-UNESCO story or memory from that time. We would also like to invite all of you who have been involved with ECO-

UNESCO to our special 25th Anniversary event in December 2011: if you have been an ECO-UNESCO club, member, intern, volunteer or staff member and would like to celebrate our 25th let us know!

### Get Involved!

Send stories and expressions of interest in attending the event to [communications@ecounesco.ie](mailto:communications@ecounesco.ie)



## The ECO Sustainability Award



Following the successful pilot of the ECO Sustainability Award with The Cavan Centre and Larch Hill International Scout and Guide Centre, the Award will be piloted with five more organisations this year. The ECO Sustainability Award encourages youth and community organisations to become more sustainable in their policies and practices; it assists and reward organisations who are working towards sustainability from a local and global perspective. ECO-UNESCO is running a second pilot of this programme from September 2011. If you would like to get involved please contact ECO-UNESCO.

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

## the greenhouse Flagship centre open to the public

The Greenhouse, powered by ECO-UNESCO and Cultivate, provides a much needed service for over 60,000 visitors that come through its doors annually for information, events, trainings, exhibitions, conferences and much more, and acts as a focal point for environmental and youth activities in Dublin city centre.

The Greenhouse is supported by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government

**Get Involved!** Visit The Greenhouse or see [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) for a guide to what's on!

## ECO-Youth Choices: Young people out and about in nature

The ECO-Youth Choices Access programme provided a series of exciting outdoor adventure days. Young people took part in activities including hikes, trails, survival skills and more developing an appreciation of their natural environment.

**Get Involved!** To find out more contact [drugsed@ecounesco.ie](mailto:drugsed@ecounesco.ie)



Not afraid to get their hands dirty!  
ECO-UNESCO Peer Educators Stephen and Jennie meet champion athlete Katie Taylor at the launch of the ECO-UNESCO Clubs in Action programme

## ECO-UNESCO Clubs in Action!

The ECO-UNESCO Clubs programme saw a dramatic increase in participation over the past year with over 100 new clubs in Ireland and Northern Ireland becoming part of the ECO-UNESCO Clubs network.

**ECO-UNESCO Clubs in Action, supported by Toyota**

ECO-UNESCO, in partnership with Toyota Ireland and with support from the Toyota

Fund for Europe, offered ECO-UNESCO Clubs across Ireland Seed Grants of up to €1,000 to carry out an environmental action. The 20 most innovative proposals selected - covering Energy Saving; Recycling; Local Clean-Ups; Community Gardens and much more - showed how they could make a real difference to the community at a local level.

**Get Involved!** ECO-UNESCO Clubs are groups of young people aged 12 to 18 who are in an existing Club or come together to form a club and affiliate to ECO-UNESCO due to a shared interest in taking environmental action at a local level. To find out how you can set up an ECO-UNESCO Club simply contact [clubs@ecounesco.ie](mailto:clubs@ecounesco.ie)

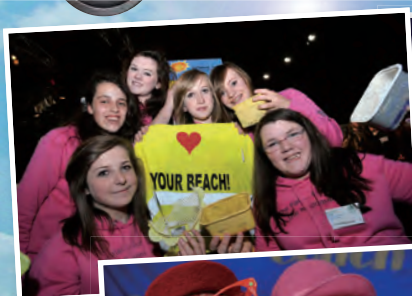
## Kids Camps: ECO-Explorers... a winning formula!

Since their introduction in 2010, our children's environmental holiday camps 'ECO-Explorers' have gone from strength to strength. The combination of outdoor exploration and indoor games and activities which ignite a love of the environment and help young people discover nature in the heart of the city has proven a winning formula. Due to popular demand the camps are now running throughout the summer as well as during Halloween and Easter holiday periods.



**Get Involved!** To book your child's place contact [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie)

## Picture Parade: ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony 2011



At the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011, overall winners, St Joseph's secondary school, Stanhope St, Dublin, with Elaine Nevin, Director of ECO-UNESCO and guest of honour former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice.

See images, videos and more of the great day on our blog! [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie)





## Environmental Youth Events and Activities programme

**ECO-UNESCO organises a packed calendar of environmental events and activities based around key environmental days each year, bringing young people from across Ireland together for conservation, education and adventure!**

Highlights this year included a National Tree Week Urban Safari exploring the role of trees in the built environment and taking a Green Trail of Dublin city; a safe cycling and transport event for Mobility Week and Car Free Day; young people and a team of ECO-

UNESCO Peer Educators getting together for a film screening and international food festival to celebrate diversity on UN Earth Day; adventure hikes and outdoor survival days around Barnaslingan and other woodlands; and a wild windswept visit to Bull Island for RAMSAR World Wetlands day! Still to come is ECO-UNESCO's National Youth ECO-Forum. This year's theme is Green Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and we will once again be bringing hundreds of young people aged 15 - 18 together to make their voices heard on the issues that are important to them!

**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.



**POLAWARE!** Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, is impressed by the Climate Justice project of this intrepid group of Youth for Sustainable Development peer educators.

### Youth for Sustainable Development Programme: Year of Action!

ECO-UNESCO's Peer Educators for Sustainable Development have been working hard on their action projects as part of their Youth for Sustainable Development programme year of action. The groups are taking action on a range of sustainability issues to highlight the local to global links. These great projects include starting community gardens, a photo exhibition showing environmental actions in the global south, and an ECO-Youth solidarity concert. One group, the Polawares, even caught the eye of former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice. She commended their Climate Justice project Polaware which involves, among other things, creating polar bear models out of recycled materials and placing them around the city to surprise and provoke passers-by and raise awareness about climate change!

**Get Involved!** These are just some highlights of the Youth for Sustainable Development programme. Contact [ysd@ecounesco.ie](mailto:ysd@ecounesco.ie) to find out more.

## Education and Training Programme

As well as delivering workshops to schools and youth groups around Ireland, one of ECO-UNESCO's core educational initiatives is upskilling Teachers and Leaders in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Environmental Education methodologies.

ECO-UNESCO delivered short courses on a wide range of themes throughout 2011. Just one example is the ECO-Watchers short course held in the Greenhouse for teachers and youth leaders in May 2011. This introduced teachers and leaders to the latest trends and developments in Environmental Education. With a particular focus on Energy, Waste and Climate Education, it gave participants fun, hands-on activities to take back to the classroom.

**“Excellent training, very relevant and practical”**

- Participant in ECO-Watchers Training, May 2011.



### FETAC Accredited Education Centre

In 2011, our FETAC accredited education centre helped upskill more learners than ever through the provision of trainings to thousands of participants both in The Greenhouse and nationwide on an outreach basis. A number of semi-state and private sector organisations also benefitted from tailored ECO-UNESCO programmes, helping them on the path toward sustainability.



### Case Study: Inishowen Partnership

Working with the Inishowen Partnership (funded by the Leader programme under the Rural Development Programme), ECO-UNESCO delivered its FETAC (Level 5) Accredited Introduction to Sustainable Development to local community and voluntary stakeholders. The training was a great success, bringing diverse groups from the community together to examine sustainability issues, and plan collective action. In fact it led to the establishment of a local produce market in Carndonagh by former course participants- another resounding success!

**“Excellent activities and great participation. Good content - was useful whether you had very little knowledge or vast knowledge of environment.”** - Participant of ECO-UNESCO Outreach Training (Inishowen)

**Book your organisation's training** For information on how your organisation can benefit from a tailor-made training contact [training@ecounesco.ie](mailto:training@ecounesco.ie).





## Save The Date!

### Autumn/Winter at ECO-UNESCO

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

**September:** 2012 Young Environmentalist Awards Launches

**21 Sept:** ECO-Action for Car-Free Day

**22 Sept:** FETAC Alumni Network meeting

**27 Sept:** Youthwork & Sustainability Training

**29 Sept:** Introduction to Sustainable Development

(FETAC L 5) 10-week course begins

**28 Sept:** X-Hale Youth Forum

**29 Sept:** ECO Sustainability Award training

**4 October:** UN World Habitat Day

**25 Oct:** ECO-CHOICES: Training Trainers in Drug Misuse Prevention

**27 -28 Oct:** Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC L5), Intensive

**1 - 4 November:** ECO Explorers Halloween Camps for Kids

**8 Nov:** ECO-Community Garden Training

**17 Nov:** National Youth ECO-Forum

**22 Nov:** Environmental Education Training - Trends & Development

**25 Nov:** Young Environmentalist Awards Registration Deadline

**29 Nov:** Environmental Education Curriculum Links training

**6 December:** Leadership and Strategic Sustainable Development Training

Highlights of Spring/Summer include the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony 2012, ECO-Explorers Camps, Seminars, conferences and more...

For complete listings see [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie) to download your free copy of the ECO-UNESCO Prospectus 2011/2012



## Support our work!

ECO-UNESCO is a non-profit organisation and relies on your support to build and develop our environmental awareness programmes for Ireland's young people. We urge people to become members of the organisation and support our work. Our annual membership fee is €50 for group membership and only €4 per month for individuals - for that you receive a range of member's benefits including discounts on trainings and our large range of education resources as well as the knowledge that you are helping to protect our natural environment by empowering Ireland's young people.

## International Bulletin Board

### European Funded Study Visit - Employment and Self-employment in depressed rural regions: innovative methods

ECO-UNESCO's National Director Elaine Nevin attended a Study visit in Limoges, France with education professionals from across Europe to learn about innovative ways of developing the employment potential of people, including developing entrepreneurial skills; training programmes and innovative initiatives available to young people.



### European Youth Meeting for Sustainable Development (EYM 2011)

ECO-UNESCO Peer Educator for Sustainable Development, Stephen Quinn, attended EYM in Estonia in June 2011. EYM examined youth participation in 'A Fair and Green Economy' as part of the international preparations for the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20.

### World Environmental Education Congress 2015 (WEEC 2015)

This year ECO-UNESCO developed Ireland's bid to bring the prestigious WEEC 2015 to Dublin. ECO-UNESCO created the bid and programme for the conference entitled: Educating for a Sustainable Future; Learning to inspire, empower and innovate.

## My Experience at ECO-UNESCO!!



siúin

(Transition Year work experience & National Youth ECO-Forum participant)

My name is Siúin and this is about the great week I spent with ECO-UNESCO for work experience.

I was a bit nervous until I arrived and met the staff. Everybody was so friendly to me and made me feel very welcome. Throughout the week I worked on lots of different tasks and got to experience the work the staff do there every day. I went to a youth group, helped with environmental youth officer work and picked out good activities for future workshops. Every day there was something interesting for me to do and I learned a lot about ECO-UNESCO and the environment. Overall, the week was a great experience and I enjoyed every minute of it!

**Get Involved!** Contact [youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie) telling us how you'd like to get involved.

## Hot off the press!

ECO-UNESCO publishes a range of educational materials for youth workers, teachers and anyone interested in environmental education and education for sustainable development. Recent publications include Youth for the Future: a comprehensive peer education handbook - with interactive activities and helpful tips and checklists - as well as the ECO-UNESCO

Clubs Handbook, and our Green Trail and Map of Dublin with a walking trail and questions which allow users to discover and explore the urban ecology and natural heritage of the city. Many more publications are available to purchase including favourites Energy Watchers and the ECO-Watchers Toolkit, as well as a wide range of posters and CD-ROMs.

**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)