

ECO-UNESCO News

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Thousands of Young People Empowered to Go Green

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the **Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA)** 2016! In 2016, over 270 groups from schools and youth centres across Ireland entered their very innovative and inspiring projects to improve their environment and raise awareness

about local and global environmental issues. There was an impressive and diverse range of projects such as the creation of natural coconut oil deodorants to cleaning up dog poop to raising awareness about the environmental impact of producing denim jeans.

Over 700 enthusiastic and excited young people attended the Final Showcase and Awards Ceremony at the Mansion House in Dublin. They were joined by special guests including Green Party TD Catherine Martin, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Criona Ni Dhalaiagh, Melody Boateng from UNESCO HQ in Paris, and was presented by RTE Presenter Count Dr. Michél Dugon. As commented by ECO-UNESCO Director Elaine Nevin, "the level of dedication, innovation and environmental awareness demonstrated by these young people throughout the YEA 2016 was phenomenal."

37 awards were presented to honour the efforts of the country's greenest teens. The Overall Senior Award went to young people from Presentation Secondary School Tralee for their 'waste' project 'If Your Dog Poops, You Scoop'. 'Planet Pals' from St. Leo's College



St. Leo's College Carlow being presented with Overall Junior Award from Melody Boateng (UNESCO Rep), Catherine Martin TD and Elaine Nevin



and well done to all who took action to conserve the environment!



In 1986, ECO-UNESCO is officially founded and opens an Environmental Resource Centre

ECO-UNESCO Celebrates 30th Anniversary



ECO-UNESCO is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2016! ECO-UNESCO was set up in 1986 by a group of young people who wanted to take action to protect the environment. Over the last 30 years, we have worked with tens of thousands of young people through environmental programmes, events and workshops.

One of ECO-UNESCO's strengths is our innovative approach to environmental education focusing on the needs of young people. The results are the development of successful programmes such as the Young Environmentalist Awards, ECO-Clubs, ECO-Choices, Youth Employability, the Youth for Sustainable Development programme and the Learning2Change Programme. We look forward to continuing this vital work in the years to come!

International recognition for our work!

ECO-UNESCO is a key partner in the UNESCO Global Action Programme

Showcasing our work at UNESCO Global Action Programme meeting

ECO-UNESCO was delighted to attend the second meeting of the Partner Networks of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in July 2016. The aim of the programme is to achieve the education elements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

ECO-UNESCO was selected as a Key Partner due to the recognition we received from our work in ESD which engages thousands of young people in taking action in favour of sustainable development. We were delighted to be able to highlight our successful projects with organisations at the meeting!



Networking Workshop GAP, Paris, June 2016

Register for YEA 2016-17

Do you want to be involved in the biggest ECO-action programme in Ireland and help protect the environment? Do you want to make new friends and have fun whilst gaining new skills? If you are aged between 10-18 years old we want to hear from you! For more information and to register your project online visit www.ecounesco.ie or contact yea@ecounesco.ie.

Sep – Nov 2016: Project Registration
Sep – Oct 2016: YEA 6 Steps to Success Free Training
Nov 2016 – Feb 2017: Project Submission
Mar – Apr 2017: Regional ECO-Den Semi-finals
May 2017: Showcase & Awards Ceremony

Would your **company** like to support the development of young people and their actions to protect the environment?
Please get in touch to find out how your company can get involved. Contact Lisa at 01 6625491.



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Director's Message



Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO, During 2016 we've been busy with our wide range of youth, education and training programmes, working with thousands of people all across the island of Ireland. We are also proud to be celebrating 30 years of ECO-UNESCO, read on to find out how

we plan to celebrate this achievement. Our Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase Ceremony in 2016 was of incredibly high standard, with a wide range of quality projects from young people on display. Our Youth for Sustainable Development programme continues to engage and inspire young people to get active on environmental issues. We are planning to expand the programme outside Dublin and work to

upskill and empower even more young people. The continued success of our Green Pathways youth employment programme has led to two new courses in Autumn 2016 in Dublin and Galway! I hope you enjoy reading some of the highlights of our past year and events coming up in 2016-17. Until next time,
Elaine Nevin,
National Director, ECO-UNESCO

Youth Leaders Champion the Environment



Earth Day Activities

Our Youth for Sustainable Development group has been really busy in 2016. This programme inspires, challenges and motivates young people to act locally in favour of sustainable development. Over 80 young people from across Dublin attend the weekly workshops, learning about the environment, gaining new skills, taking action to protect the environment, and having fun! One young person commented that "I really enjoy coming every week making new friends and getting to express ideas is really beneficial."

The young people used key environmental dates in the year to raise awareness on a number of important issues. Over 50 young people were involved in celebrating World Water Day and Earth Day in 2016. The young

people also entered the Young Environmentalist Awards and picked up an impressive five awards, a huge well done on the success of all your hard work!

Throughout the year the young people also hear from various guest speakers and participate in different skills-building workshops. In 2016 Raja Nundall, cameraman from the RTE TV series, 'Eco-Eye', delivered a film-making workshop which will be put to use later in the year; keep an eye on the website and social media to see why!

YSD coming to a town near you

ECO-UNESCO, with assistance from Concern Worldwide and Trócaire, will be setting up new clubs in **Inishowen, Donegal, Connemara, and Galway** by the end of 2016. We will also be enrolling new participants to the **YSD Dublin** group in October 2016. If you live in these areas and want to challenge yourself, protect the environment and meet new people then we want to hear from you!

Get Involved! To find out how visit our website at www.ecounesco.ie or contact us at ysd@ecounesco.ie or call (01) 6625 491.



Attending UNICEF Youth Summit
Dublin Castle



Film making workshop with Raja Nundall
from Eco-Eye

Fact!

In 2016 80 teachers participated in teacher workshops and 882 students participated in student workshops!

Inspiring Sustainable Schools Across Ireland

Learning2Change Our World is an innovative programme that encourages teachers and students to work together on a common sustainable development theme, with training provided to both teachers and students in in-school workshops. We've visited over 20 schools in 2016 with teachers participating in Development Education/ Education for Sustainable Development (DE/ESD) workshops looking at both curricular links and cross curricular links in diverse subject areas such as geography and maths, sciences and Irish. Many schools were inspired to undertake a youth led action project to improve their school or local environment.

If your school would like to get involved with Learning2Change Our World please contact us by phone, email learning2change@ecounesco.ie or visit our website.



Students at Greenhills College enjoying a workshop



Greenpathways Graduate Jessica Butler receiving her FETAC certificate from ECO-UNESCO Director Elaine Nevlin

Green Youth Employment and Employability

The Greenpathways II - Environmental Studies and Skills programme came to a successful end in June 2016 with a graduation ceremony held in Europe House in Dublin. Over 140 people have participated in the Greenpathways programme since 2012, completing QQI accredited trainings, mentoring support & guidance, work placements along with employment support.

We are delighted to have secured funding to continue running our Green Youth Employability programmes, and that we will be running one for the first time in Galway this Autumn! The courses are free and available to unemployed 18-24 year olds.



Get Involved!

To find out about future courses visit our website or contact Niamh at (01) 662 5491 or email youthemployment@ecounesco.ie.

Clubs go from Strength to Strength



St Tiernan's ECO-Club scooping an award at YEA 2016

It has been a busy year for the 300 ECO-UNESCO Clubs across the island. The Young Environmentalist Awards saw an impressive number of ECO-Clubs battle it

out for the various awards categories. Of the 86 finalist project, 42 were submitted by ECO-UNESCO Clubs. Congratulations to all for their hard work and excellent projects!

We were delighted to receive Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness funding from Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council to fund a new Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown (DLR) Club Hub. The programme ran on a weekly basis in St. Tiernan's Community School in Dundrum. The young people explored a range of environmental issues important to them and decided to create five children's books to increase awareness on environmental issues. Congratulations to Mr. Dockery and all of the students from St. Tiernan's who worked so hard to make the project a huge success! We're excited that DLR County Council will be funding a new Club Hub in Rathdown Secondary School open to all young people aged 12-18 in the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown area.

Working together to make a difference

The Overall Senior Winners of the YEA were from Presentation School Tralee with their project 'If Your Dog Poops, You Scoop'. The group wanted to make Tralee "dog waste free" due to the drastic affects that dog waste can have on our health and the environment. They gave talks at school, held an awareness day giving out stickers, leaflets and dog waste bags, and used social media. They also met their local council and lobbied for more bins, signs and dog waste bag dispensers in town. Thanks to their hard work their local area is one step closer to becoming dog waste free!



SENIOR WINNERS ECO-UNESCO

Get in the club!

The ECO-UNESCO Clubs programme is a great way to give focus and structure to a group of young people who are interested in environmental issues. It's free and open to any group of young people taking environmental action or considering environmental issues. Join the network of hundreds of ECO-UNESCO Clubs and sign up today!

To set up a club in your area contact clubs@ecounesco.ie or 01 662 5491 to get started or for more information!

Global Youth Leader for Change participant, Serena Choong

Serena has been involved in the YSD programme since October 2015 and has been working with the Youth for Sustainable Dublin group and the Stoneybatter youth group. Serena travelled to Paris to attend COP21 and participated in awareness raising activities on climate change.

"During my time with ECO-UNESCO, I was given the opportunity to have the most amazing experiences. From going abroad, to going to different youth events in Ireland. I've gained leadership skills and knowledge about the environment that I wouldn't have learnt in school. I've met amazing people and I wouldn't change it for anything!"

What Young People Say

"By doing the YEA project, we have learned how important it is to recognise environmental issues and to work together to make a difference in our local areas." – YEA 2016 Finalist

Do you see yourself becoming a future global leader for change?

Then contact us at ysd@ecounesco.ie or call us at 016625491!



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Key Dates!

September: Green Skills Galway
September: Green Steps Dublin
September – October: Recruitment for new ECO Club in Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown 5th
September – 25th November: YEA Registration open
September – October: Global Youth Leaders for Change Programme recruitment
October: ECO-Explorers Halloween camp
October – November: 6 Steps to Success Regional Training
End 2016: Member recruitment for new ECO-Clubs in Inishowen, Donegal and Connemara; and Galway.
February 2017: YEA Project submission closing date
March – April 2017: ECO-Dens Semi Finals
April 2017: ECO-Explorers Easter Camp
May 2017: YEA Showcase & Awards Ceremony
June 2017: Teen Summer Camp
July – August 2017: ECO-Explorers Summer Camp
August 2017: Exhibition of YEA Finalist projects
Weekly: Youth for Sustainable Development/Green Teen Club/ECO – Choices
Ongoing 2016 – 2017: Environmental Trainings and workshops on request

Strides in Sustainability Rewarded

Huge congratulations to REHAB Care Bray who were awarded the Silver ECO Sustainability Award! They put a huge amount of hard work and effort into making their centre more environmentally sustainable for all who avail of services there. The Group are now working towards achieving the Gold award, keep up the great work!

Do you want to make your youth or community organisation more sustainable? Training, on-going support and a practical toolkit will be provided by ECO-UNESCO. Sustainability is not just about "being Green" it is also about social equity, inclusion and justice – in all dimensions of our lives.

Get Involved! Contact us (01) 6625491 or email education@ecounesco.ie.



Education and Training Busy Year for ECO Education and Training

This year we have been very busy with lots of training including accredited training for youth workers, short training for teachers and educators, and biodiversity and basic gardening workshops for community groups! 2016 started with the completion of the FETAC level 5 on Peer Education on Sustainable Development by the youth workers in Navan. Congratulations to all for your hard work during the course and with your youth groups.

We were excited to deliver a new series of short training workshops on Biodiversity and Basic Gardening to 10 groups in the Dun Laoghaire County Council area in 2016. The workshop highlights the benefits of gardening and the important role small gardens and even balconies play in supporting biodiversity within urban areas. Everyone went home with a selection of newly planted seeds of herbs, peas, tomatoes and spring onions!



Training Courses

ECO-UNESCO offers a range of short and accredited courses to suit 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 or delivered as outreach in your area.

Contact education@ecounesco.ie or 01 662 5491 to get involved!

Get Involved!

Contact us (01) 6625491 or email education@ecounesco.ie!

Growing Green opportunities for Dublin's youth!



The second wave of the popular Green Connections series was rolled out in 2016 to Youth Groups across Dublin. The programme, funded by the NYC Connected Communities, gives young people the chance to get hands-on with the environment. Young people enjoyed learning more about the environment and wildlife through activities such as gardening, art activities and outdoor excursions including to the Grow Dome! Young people also undertook practical work by creating bird feeders and planting seeds. For more information or to sign up get in touch!

ECO-EXPLORERS RETURNED TO OLD STOMPING GROUND

Whilst the first ECO-Explorers camps were held in our new offices on Burgh Quay during Easter 2016 for the first time, it was a return to a familiar stomping ground for our ECO-Explorers with daily outings to our favourite green space, Merrion Square. The two ECO-Explorers camps were full of budding ECO-Explorers who enjoyed new activities that included an upcycling Fashion Show and an Amazing Animals project which started with a trip to the Natural History Museum!

Holiday camps run every **Easter, Summer, and Halloween** school holidays for young ECO-Explorers aged 5-12 years old. Visit our website to find out how to book your young ECO-Explorer onto the next one!

Get Involved!

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



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