

# ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



## ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalists Awards 2020

### CLIMATE ACTION. THE HEAT IS ON



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# Welcome to ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2020

Welcome to the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2020.

I would like to congratulate you on becoming a Young Environmentalist Awards finalist and I'm delighted to acknowledge the work of all of our Young Environmentalists.

This year we hosted a very different Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA). We weren't able to stage our annual showcase or awards ceremony but this is no less an acknowledgement of the wonderful work of young people across the island of Ireland in environmental protection and action for sustainability.

This year to celebrate our Young Environmentalists we created a new ECO-Week with themes of Food, Fashion, Fitness and Future to provide you with inspirational workshops, talks, activities and much more all accessible from your home.

The Young Environmentalist Awards is a way of recognising and rewarding the work of young people who carry out environmental action projects locally. Over the years the YEA has grown with tens of thousands of young people from all across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland participating, helping to conserve and protect the environment and promote sustainable development, and encouraging others to do the same.

For YEA 2020, we are delighted to have received almost 500 entries from groups of young people aged 10-18 from all across the country, covering so many important environmental issues including climate action, biodiversity loss, water pollution, and many more.

You have completed your YEA action projects with energy, enthusiasm and creativity and I want to congratulate you on your achievements especially this year with the challenges the current global pandemic has brought to all of us. We know it hasn't been easy but you persevered with your work all the same.

Like many we've had to adapt; so even though we weren't able to host our regional ECO-Dens; we judged projects based on your submissions along with the fantastic one-minute videos of your projects that you created.

I am always so inspired by your wonderful work and so hopeful for our present and future as you demonstrate strength, creativity and this year in particular great resilience. As Greta Thunberg says – 'once we begin to act, hope is everywhere' – and your actions, through the YEA give us hope.

There will be some challenges in the years ahead – we know this. At the moment, the most pressing concern is dealing with Covid19. Our others are climate action and biodiversity loss. And young people recognise this. We now have an opportunity to create a future that is different, a future that embeds the values and actions of the UN Sustainable Development goals, a future that is green and sustainable.

And I believe young people will be demanding this and leading the way with creativity to make our futures brighter.

I want to thank our YEA judges for all your diligent work in judging this years projects. We greatly appreciate your time, interest and commitment and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

I want to thank the ECO-UNESCO team who each year work tirelessly to make the Young Environmentalist Awards such a success. In particular thanks to Susie Spratt, Samantha Andrades, Jessica Jones, Dunchadh Kinane, Clare Sheppard, Eimear Manning, Doireann Dunbar, Caitlin Wilson, Kieran Allen, Breon Timmons, Rachel Haran and Vince Harney and all the team of staff, interns and volunteers.

A special thanks to our funders and sponsors who each year provide funding and support to the Young Environmentalist Awards programme. We really appreciate your ongoing support which helps us to develop and grow the impact of the Young Environmentalist Awards.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the YEA Mentors - the leaders and teachers who support young people to carry out YEA project work.

And finally I want to thank all of our Young Environmentalist for all your hard work, energy, enthusiasm and creativity during what has been a difficult time.

Well done to all and congratulations on your achievements!



**Elaine Nevin**  
National Director  
ECO-UNESCO

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Elaine Nevin'.



# Young Environmentalist Awards 2020

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# #YEA20: Celebrating 21 Years



## 50,000+

young people involved  
since 1999



### 4,000+

young people engaged  
in #YEA2020



### 492

projects registered  
for #YEA20



### 152

finalist groups



### 39,892

votes cast for the People's  
Choice Award



### 2

idea fests pilot  
events held in Kerry  
& Dublin



### 60

nominations  
for the Mentor  
of the Year Award



### 1,196

people viewed the  
Young Environmentalist  
Ceremony broadcast 2020



### 25,000

people directly impacted



# #ECOWEEK2020

ECO WEEK 2020 was designed to celebrate the end of the YEA programme 2020 with a full week of online talks, activities and workshops. It was conceived in response to changes in the YEA programme brought on by current restrictions and in response to the needs of young people at this time.

Eco-week aimed to provide fun, entertaining and thought-provoking events for young people to learn about the environment, improve their health and well-being, gain new skills, consider future career or study options and feel more inspired to take environmental action. Interesting events for mentors and educators were also included in the programme.

The week included a total of 24 events including workshops, live talks, pre-recorded presentations, competitions, challenges and the YEA Awards Broadcast. The initiative was aimed at all YEA participants and all young people in Ireland between ages 10-18.

Some events were in collaboration with Friends of the Earth and Accenture.

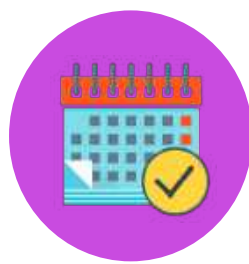
The week promoted the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

A very special thanks to everyone who has contributed to ECO-Week – we were delighted and very excited to run this for the first year ever.



600

people directly impacted



24

core events



337

quiz responses



171k

people reached on  
social media





# YEA finalists projects 2020

## Biodiversity - SDG #15

Biodiversity projects look at researching and protecting different types of plants, animals or eco-systems.



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Cork	Coláiste Treasa (2020-376)	Banking on the Willow - Junior	12
Dublin	Mount Carmel Secondary School (2020-249)	W.A.T.E.R - Senior	12
Dublin	Newpark Comprehensive School (2020-269)	Be Fair To Nature - Senior	12
Dublin	Saint Raphaela's Secondary School (2020-452)	The Bee Cove - Senior	12
Dublin	Meánscoil Iognáid Rís Drimnagh Castle (2020-068)	Bee Be Gone If We Don't Act Now - Junior	13
Dublin	Meánscoil Iognáid Rís Drimnagh Castle (2020-109)	Biodiversity Back in the Park - Senior	13
Dublin	Mercy College 2020-208)	The Case of the Bee - Senior	13
Galway	Coláiste Naomh Eoin (2020-437)	Caomhnú Bláthanna Fiáin na hÉireann - Senior	13
Kerry	KDYS - Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (2020-218)	Flower Power - Junior	14
Limerick	John the Baptist Community School (2020-256)	Hospital Habitat Protectors - Senior	14
Roscommon	Glenamaddy Community School (2020-171)	Pollination Nation - Senior	14
Wexford	FCJ Secondary School (2020-300)	Future of Farming - Senior	14
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray (2020-117)	Swim for seals - Senior	14

## Climate Change - SDG #13

Climate Change projects connect local activity with the broader effects of climate change. They identify and promote behaviour changes that will contribute to mitigating climate change.



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Clare	Coláiste Muire Green Schools Committee (2020-239)	Saving the Earth One Carbon... - Senior	15
Clare	St. John Bosco Community College (2020-332)	Sustainable Pie - Senior	15
Cork	Kinsale Community School (2020-384)	Has Climate Change Education has gone too far? - Senior	15
Cork	Millstreet Community School (2020-356)	What are the barriers that hinder Ireland's Greta? - Senior	15
Cork	Millstreet Community School (2020-364)	Could Help be the Key to... - Senior	16
Cork	Schull Community College (2020-246)	Junior Climate Change Activists - Junior	16
Donegal	St. Columba's College (2020-288)	The Global Gang - Senior	16
Dublin	Eco Unesco (2020-189)	Australian Fires - Senior	16
Dublin	Loreto High School Beaufort & Alexandra College (2020-490)	Investigating the antimicrobial effects... - Senior	17
Dublin	Sandford Park (2020-036)	Beef free - Junior	17
Dublin	Newpark Comprehensive School (2020-105)	Tangible Transport - Senior	17
Dublin	Newpark Comprehensive School (2020-106)	If Not Me, Then Who? - Senior	17
Dublin	St. Andrew's College - ZOY (2020-315)	How Green are your Groceries? - Junior	18
Kerry	Castleisland Community College (2020-006)	Sunny Side Out - Senior	18
Kerry	Mercy Mounthawk (2020-035)	Climate Change: Inaction is an Action - Senior	18
Kerry	St. Brendan's College (2020-145)	Self-Sustainable Sem - Senior	18
Louth	Dundalk Grammar School (2020-201)	Green Games - Senior	19
Louth	YSD Drogheda (2020-297)	Teen Trees - Senior	19
Meath	Eureka Secondary School Kells (2020-254)	Food For Thought - Senior	19
Monaghan	Teach na nDaoinne/Teach na nÓG (2020-438)	The Rod Squad - Junior	19
Offaly	Tullamore College (2020-222)	Climate Change In The Midlands - Senior	20
Roscommon	Coláiste Chiaráin (2020-075)	The effects of climate change - Senior	20
Roscommon	Coláiste Chiaráin (2020-084)	Wildfires in Australia - Senior	20



## ECO-Art & Design - SDG #4

ECO-Art & Design projects demonstrate creative ways to inform people about nature or environmental problems and promote positive action.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Cork	Patrician Academy (2020-202)	The Patrician Academy Activists - Senior	20
Dublin	Coláiste Cois Life (2020-276)	UASCHÚRSÁIL CCL {'UCCL'} - Senior	20
Dublin	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís Drimnagh Castle (2020-271)	Trash Talk - Senior	21
Meath	Eureka Secondary School (2020-021)	PLATS Plants - Senior	21
Meath	Eureka Secondary School (2020-251)	Take the fast out of fashion - Senior	21
Wexford	FCJ Secondary School (2020-329)	Future Fashion - Senior	21
Wicklow	John Scottus School (2020-192)	Outdoor Classroom - Senior	21

## ECO-Community Development - SDG #11

ECO-Community Development projects develop practical solutions to local environmental issues and involve local communities in developing a more sustainable society.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Cork	Millstreet Community School (2020-450)	An Investigation into the Quality of Chilled Milk- Senior	22
Dublin	Eco Unesco (2020-351)	Sustainable Education for Everyone - Senior	22
Dublin	Hartstown Community School (2020-267)	Wipe pollution off the face of the Earth - Senior	22
Donegal	Scoil Mhuire Buncrana (2020-146)	THE CLI-MATES - Senior	22
Mayo	Cloghans Hill Teen Turn - Mt St Michael (2020-428)	H4H - Help for Homeless - Junior	23
Meath	St. Josephs Mercy Navan (2020-418)	Period. - Senior	23
Westmeath	Moate Community School (2020-090)	Sensory Garden - Senior	23
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray (2020-091)	Loreto Bray for Fairtrade - Senior	

## ECO-Health & Wellbeing - SDG #3

Projects in this category explore the link between our health (physical and emotional wellbeing) and the environment we live in; from the water we drink, to the air we breathe, to the food we grow and eat.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Clare	St. John Bosco Community College (2020-331)	Continuing to Sow for the Soul - Senior	23
Cork	Coláiste Choilm (2020-382)	Is Climate Change Affecting Mental Health? - Senior	24
Derry	St. Colm's High School (2020-282)	Ballinascreen Intergenerational Project - Junior	24
Dublin	Crumlin Youthreach (2020-223)	Me-Bags - Senior	24
Dublin	ECO-UNESCO (2020-248)	Gardaí of The Galaxy - Senior	24
Galway	St. Jarlath's College (2020-262)	Continuing to Sow for the Soul - Senior	25
Kerry	Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí (2020-173)	Bia Beo - Senior	25
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray (2020-103)	Super Senses Sensory Garden - Senior	25



## ECO-Innovation - SDG #9

ECO-Innovation projects research, develop and often create products, technologies or services that contribute to sustainable development.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Antrim	Eastern Regional College Lisburn (2020-454)	The Water Boys - Senior	26
Cavan	Colaiste Dun An Ri (2020-340)	Chicken Feathers as Insulation - Junior	26
Cork	Coláiste an Spioraid Naomh (2020-347)	Cycle of Life; The Use of heat produced... - Senior	26
Donegal	Abbey Vocational School (2020-350)	Flax as an alternative to plastic strapping - Junior	26
Dublin	Colaiste Pobail Setanta (2020-439)	Bee-o-diversity - Junior	27
Dublin	Foxrock Parish Youth Club (2020-333)	Coin the Planet - Junior	27
Dublin	Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan (2020-411)	Using chitosan to create a biodegradable... - Senior	27
Dublin	Sandy Mount Park Educate Together (2020-377)	Are you ready to tumble? - Junior	27
Limerick	Castletroy College (2020-479)	Bin Buddy - Junior	27
Mayo	Mount Saint Michael's Claremorris (2020-447)	Bee keepers what's buzzing - Junior	28
Tyrone	St. Ciaran's College Ballygawley (2020-408)	The Eco Powered Dollshouse - Junior	28
Westmeath	Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar (2020-385)	Flood Assist - Senior	28

## Energy - SDG #7

Energy projects look at how energy use impacts the environment. These projects drive change in the way we can reduce this impact.

7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Dublin	Blackrock College (2020-480)	Data Centres: Actions to Raise Awareness - Senior	28
Dublin	Meánscoil Iognáid Rís Drimnagh Castle (2020-260)	Bike R us - Senior	28
Sligo	Jesus and Mary secondary School (2020-275)	Atlantic Wave Energy... - Senior	29
Tipperary	Borrisokane Community College (2020-413)	Electricity Generating Chimney - Senior	29
Westmeath	St. Joseph's Secondary School (2020-216)	The Carbon Cubs - Senior	29
Wexford	FCJ Secondary School (2020-301)	Thrive to drive - Senior	29

## Waste - SDG #12

Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts. Waste projects explore our consumption and production patterns, and how to reduce waste.

12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Clare	Kilkee Community College (2020-144)	The Plastic Police - Junior	30
Clare	St. Anne's Community College (2020-414)	Temperature on Degradation of Plastics - Senior	30
Clare	St. John Bosco Community College (2020-338)	Sustainable Smiles - Senior	30
Clare	St. Patrick's Comprehensive School (2020-451)	CompGoesGreen - Senior	30
Cork	Coláiste Choilm (2020-365)	Different Organisms Effect the Composting - Senior	31
Cork	Davis College Mallow (2020-016)	The Young Reducers - Senior	31
Cork	St. Mary's Secondary School Macroom (2020-375)	The Real Price Is Consumer Choice - Senior	31
Donegal	Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada (2020-186)	Bag it up - Senior	32
Donegal	Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada (2020-187)	None of your beeswax - Senior	32
Donegal	Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada (2020-188)	Sópa Sóculach - Senior	32
Dublin	Meánscoil Iognáid Rís Drimnagh Castle (2020-247)	Sustainable United Compost Committee - Junior	32
Dublin	Mercy College Coolock (2020-100)	Turtle Tactics - Senior	33
Dublin	Pobalscoil Neasáin (2020-169)	Clean Up and Green Up - Senior	33
Dublin	Rathdown School (2020-157)	The Write Way - Junior	33
Dublin	Rehabilitation Training Central Remedial Clinic (2020-426)	Save Our Seas - Senior	33



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Dublin	Sandford Park (2020-033)	Reducing Plastic Packaging - Junior	34
Dublin	St. Michael's Holy Faith Secondary School (2020-214)	Ban the Bottle - Junior	34
Dublin	St. Andrew's College - 2ON (2020-326)	Research, Replace, Restore - Junior	34
Dublin	The Teresian School (2020-349)	Coffee Waste - Senior	34
Galway	Coláiste Iognáid (2020-440)	BOTTLE SHOT - Junior	35
Limerick	Coláiste Nano Nagle (2020-178)	Fashion Frenzy - Senior	35
Limerick	John The Baptist Community School (2020-199)	The Baptist Waste Busters - Senior	35
Meath	Ashbourne Community School (2020-491)	Operation transformation; Slim Down Your Waste - Senior	35
Meath	Eureka Secondary School (2020-052)	Take it from the tap - Senior	36
Roscommon	Coláiste Chiaráin (2020-072)	Recycling Reformers - Senior	36
Roscommon	Coláiste Chiaráin (2020-073)	The Fiddlers alternatives to plastic - Senior	36
Roscommon	Glenamaddy Community School (2020-191)	Waste Warriors - Senior	36
Tipperary	St. Anne's Sec School (2020-295)	Sustainable Style - Senior	36
Waterford	St. Angela's Secondary School (2020-124)	County Clean-up Scheme - Senior	37
Westmeath	St. Joseph's Secondary School (2020-215)	The Plastic Plague - Senior	37
Wicklow	Loreto Bray (2020-137)	LB Plastic Free - Senior	37
Wicklow	Presentation College Bray (2020-266)	Is Humanity Becoming More Eco-Friendly - Senior	37
Wicklow	Youth For Sustainable Development Bray (2020-265)	Bray B.S. - Senior	37

## Water - SDG #14

Water projects look at water-related issues such as impacts of pollution in oceans or rivers, water scarcity or water waste.



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Carlow	Carlow Regional Youth Service (2020-009)	River Clean Up - Senior	38
Clare	Mary Immaculate Secondary School (2020-378)	The Grey area within Greywater - Junior	38
Cork	Coláiste an Phiarsaigh (2020-374)	Hydroponics Vs. Ithir: Cén Cheann atá níos fearr? - Junior	38
Dublin	Ardgillan College (2020-206)	Lifes a beach - Senior	38
Dublin	Newpark Comprehensive School (2020-107)	The Sea Saviours - Senior	39
Kildare	Scoil Mhuire Community School (2020-387)	Analysis of Leached Chemicals from Microbeads - Senior	39
Longford	Lanesboro Community College (2020-434)	The Effect of Waste on Life in the River Shannon - Junior	39
Offaly	St. Mary's Secondary School Edenderry (2020-138)	Petition for Petorca - Senior	39
Roscommon	Coláiste Chiaráin (2020-083)	Drastic Plastic - Senior	40
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray (2020-104)	River Rescuers - Senior	40

## Super Junior

The Super Junior projects explore a wide range of environmental issues. They take actions that protect and improve their local environment and raise awareness in their local community.

County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Carlow	Bennekerry NS (2020-292)	A Sticky Situation	40
Carlow	Bennekerry NS (2020-293)	Slam Dunk the Junk	41
Carlow	Bennekerry NS (2020-294)	Carlow's Solution for Air Pollution	41
Carlow	Queen of the Universe N.S. (2020-313)	Outdoor Classroom with Perennial Pollinator Planting	41
Cork	Dromleigh N.S. (2020-487)	Microalgae: a Potential Environmental Superhero	42
Cork	Kilcrohane National School (2020-436)	Plastic Warriors	42
Cork	Timoleague National School (2020-344)	What is the Best Organic Fertiliser to Grow Grass?	42
Down	St. Clare's Abbey Primary School Newry (2020-457)	Francis's Followers	42
Dublin	Canal Way ETNS (2020-463)	Canal Way Bee Friends	43
Dublin	Castleknock Educate Together NS (2020-442)	ECO FASHION	43
Dublin	Castleknock Educate Together NS (2020-443)	Plantilisation	43



County	School/Organisation	Project Name	#Page
Dublin	Castleknock Educate Together NS (2020-444)	Bio Nappy Cleaner	43
Dublin	Francis Street School (2020-140)	Franner Farmers	43
Dublin	Grúpa Glas (2020-270)	Tackling Plastic Waste	44
Dublin	Scoil Mhuire, Sandymount (2020-470)	Anseo	44
Dublin	Scoil Mhuire, Lakelands (2020-219)	Imported Fruit and Vegetables and your Carbon Footprint	44
Dublin	St. Thomas' Senior National School (2020-069)	Stools for Schools	44
Dublin	St. Brendan's BNS (2020-465)	St Brendan's Recycling Station	45
Galway	Cloghans Hill NS (2020-345)	Goal, Goal, SUPER GOAL!	45
Galway	Killasolan NS (2020-467)	Buidéal Amháin	45
Kerry	Brothers Evan, Alex and Dylan (2020-011)	Evan Alex and Dylan's Tralee Canal Clean Up	45
Kerry	Sneem N.S (2020-115)	Good Reason To Eat In Season	46
Limerick	Kapow Youth Group (2020-034)	Kapow (Kome and protect our world)	46
Limerick	Castleconnell NS (2020-203)	Castleconnell NS Energy Savers	46
Mayo	Foroige Hub Juniors, Castlebar (2020-141)	Games for Good	46
Mayo	St. Josephs Primary School (2020-279)	St Josephs Ogham Tree Team	47
Meath	Dunboyne Senior Primary School (2020-466)	Dunboyne Clean Air	47
Wexford	Gorey Central School (2020-274)	The Cool Climate Clan	47
Wexford	St. Colmans N.S. Ballindaggin (2020-305)	Electric Girls	47
Wexford	St. Colman's N.S. Ballindaggin (2020-309)	Rubbish Recyclers	47

**To see a list of winners and highly commended projects please visit our website [www.yea.ie](http://www.yea.ie)**





# THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS 2020!





# Finalist Project Summaries



## Biodiversity



Hannah Walsh and Johannah Pigott.

### Banking on the Willow: An Investigation into the Effectiveness of Planting Willow in Promoting Riverbank Biodiversity

**Coláiste treasa. Cork. 2020-376. Junior.**

We began this project as an entry for last years BT young scientist. We both had an interest in the environment and wanted to research something that could have a positive impact. It's been common practice for many years to plant willow on the riverbanks of farmland to prevent further deterioration of the bank. However, it had never been investigated whether this also helps replenish the area's biodiversity. Annually, biodiversity generates €2.6 billion in revenue for the government, yet direct spending on biodiversity is less than 10% of this figure, at €250 million. One of Ireland's greatest natural assets is slowly failing and not enough is being done to preserve it. Over the summer we surveyed 20 farms to determine the impact willow has, we found that within one year of plantation willow positively enhances pollinators, plants and insects while also preserving the riverbank. In our research we found that the willow is beneficial for rarer species of plants and pollinators that wouldn't commonly be found in our area. Our project shows that willow aids in the regeneration of riverbanks and the ecosystems of surrounding farmland. We hope to share our findings and show people the multitude of benefits willow has.

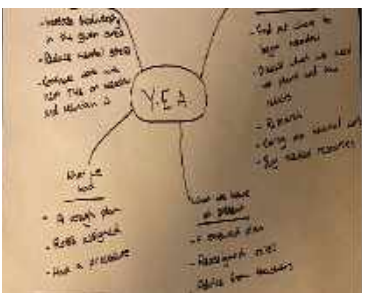


Evan Byrne, Anthony Dunne, Evan Garry, Ben Nicholson, Michael Thompson, Ryan Keogh, Ralph Cruz.

### W.A.T.E.R

**Meánscoil Iognáid Ris. Dublin. 2020-249. Senior.**

Our project is about improving biodiversity in our school and building homes for animals in our school. How did we come up with this idea? One day we were walking around the field in our school and we observed that there was a lack of biodiversity. So we called in an expert to help us with ideas to improve the biodiversity in our school. Our first idea was bug hotels and our second idea was making bird houses. Our project goals were to improve biodiversity in our school and provide homes to animals. The actions that we took included picking out cardboard that was eco-friendly and finding pallets that were going to be dumped. What we have achieved in this project? We have built the structure of a bug hotel and we have built a bird house and we also made these little logs where creatures can live in. What we hope to improve biodiversity in the school and generate more wild life.



Riyon George, Daniel Pop, Jeffrey Joji, Akhil Aji, Riad Arif, Adham, Bartosz Marciszewski, Sam Murphy, Emanuel Andrei.

### Be Fair To Nature

**Meánscoil Iognáid Rís. Dublin. 2020-269. Senior.**

Our project is about planting a wildflower meadow in our school field. This wildflower meadow will be the entrance to other biodiversity projects going on throughout our school field. We came up with this idea after talking to our mentors, teachers and fellow peers about what they would like to see done in our school field that would be beneficial to the environment and our planet. Our goal was mainly to do a project that helps the environment, be beneficial by reducing carbon emissions and benefit the school and its biodiversity. We got in contact with an environmentalist, planned out our project and bought the necessary items. What we hope is to bring more diversity into our area and new species such as hedgehogs, bees and dragonflies.



Chloe Cumiskey, Abbie Reid, Molly Keegan, Katie McRory Lyons, Alex Reid, Yasmin Meredith

### The Bee Cove

**Mercy College. Dublin. 2020-452. Senior.**

Our project was about Biodiversity, specifically looking at the effect of bees on our food chain. Our primary objective was to investigate the causes of bee decline and to create awareness within the school and local community. This idea originated using brainstorming techniques during our Mini Company class. We also spoke to the students and staff growing fruit and vegetables in our polytunnel. Our project went through a number of phases. We created a profitable product that was environmentally friendly. However, we then decided the decline in the bee population was a very serious issue and changed the emphasis of our project. The introduction a policy that will make our school pesticide free and encourage the growth of bee friendly plants was a priority. We have consulted with the Principal and the Board of Management and they are in agreement. We sought donations of bee friendly plants from local businesses. Work has started on bee friendly areas and a meadow garden. Dublin City Corporation have told us that they are actively pursuing a policy of being pesticide free and have offered us help and advice. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure all schools in the area are pesticide free.





Saoirse Jones Keogh, Hannah Barry, Amy O'Brien, Poppy Dornan, Jennifer Falegan, Millie Pigott, Lana McDonnell Greene, Kadie Jade Curtis.

### Bee Be Gone If We Don't Act Now



**Mount Carmel Secondary School, Dublin. 2020-068. Junior.**

Our goal was to raise awareness about the importance of bee-friendly environments. We were learning about climate change and sustainability and we wanted to understand how these problems impacted our local community. When we learned about these problems, we were then able to make a small contribution to the solution by creating a bee-friendly outdoor area. For our actions, we identified an area within the school grounds suitable to become a bee-friendly area. We visited the garden shop and met with the owner to discuss the best flowers to plant. We also carried out our own research. We then planted the area with our own homemade seed bombs and developed an awareness campaign within the school. We also created a guide to growing your own bee-friendly garden for other schools to use. Achievements and Impact: We created a bee-friendly outdoor area in the school and a guide to make a bee friendly area so that others might be inspired to do the same. The school community and local communities are now aware of the importance of bees and have a guide to get them started with their own bee friendly gardens.



### Biodiversity Back in the Park



Sorcha Collins O'Regan, Harry Merton, Lauren Gillham, Maeve Farragher, Sophie Mason, Theo Walsh, Emily Hall, Oran O'Sullivan, Alexander Fleming, Oscar O'Sullivan

**Newpark Comprehensive School, Dublin. 2020-109. Senior.**

We knew that the lack of biodiversity in our school was a big problem and decided that we would create our own biodiversity garden. Our project was centred on the idea of increasing biodiversity both locally and further afield. One way of doing this was by creating a biodiversity garden in our school with the hope of directly increasing biodiversity on our school grounds. We had lots of different ideas on how to make the garden as pretty and full of wildlife as possible and we had a hard job of deciding what would work and what wouldn't, as well as what was cheap and easy to build. This led to the creation of the beautiful biodiversity garden that is still being improved and worked on to this day. Another aspect of our project was raising awareness about the decline of biodiversity and how it was going to impact us. We thought that as well as the very local impact of our garden, we could educate the entire school community about the importance and value of biodiversity. This way we would both a small local effect as well as a potentially larger effect on the community.



Therese Reilly, Laura Corbally, Niamh Traynor

### The Case of the Bee

**Saint Raphaela's Secondary School. Dublin. 2020-208. Senior.**

We hoped to inspire others to become aware of the problems of climate change and the impact it has on other species. Bees are a huge part of our ecosystem and if we lose them, we as a species might be next. We realised that humanity has a major impact on the environment which has resulted in global warming and the extinction of many species. We really wanted to highlight the plight of one species that is on the verge of collapse in many places. We decided to create an informative and entertaining video for the staff, students and parents of our school. We wanted to create an educational yet entertaining video to inform people about the dangers facing the bee populations. We wanted to show people that simple changes to our everyday lives can have a positive influence on our bee populations. We also wanted to reach further than our school community and inform as many people as possible about this issue.



Aindrias Ó Floinn, Róisín Ní Cheallaigh, Caelán Cullen Quinn

### Caomhnú Bláthanna Fáin na hÉireann

**Coláiste Naomh Eoin. Galway. 2020-43. Senior.**

Coláiste Naomh Eoin in collaboration with Caomhnú Árann is trialling the planting of Yellow Rattle seeds to develop wildflower meadows. The Aran Islands has a fantastic plant species diversity and this project is investigating the potential of harvesting seeds on the islands which could be used to develop wildflower meadows elsewhere. These flower rich grasslands are so important in maintaining populations of pollinators that have declined due to intensification of agricultural practices. Without pollinators such as the bee, all plant life will die out and end life on earth. Sharing the biodiversity of wildflowers on the Aran Islands with the rest of the country will provide income for our farmers who harvest the seeds, and return self-sustaining indigenous wild flower gardens to the rest of the country. These gardens are beautiful, and cheap to maintain as they do not need to be cut or harvested. Once established they are self-sustaining. Our project is how best to convert grassland to a wild flower garden.





Patricija Pudzemyte, Anny Weng, Shaunnagh O'Shea, Andreja Bernotaite, Emma O'Connor, Roisin Carroll, Fiona O'Shea, Ula Rupsyte.

## Flower Power

**KDYS - Kerry Diocesan Youth Service, Kerry. 2020-218. Junior.**

In October 2019 we came together to work on an Environmental project. We organised a team building activity in Ballyhass Outdoor Activity Centre on the 1st November so that we could use the natural environment to build our teams health and well-being. We then organised a Climate Change Information Workshop in KDYS Tralee on 30th November 2019 and invited other youth members from other KDYS Centres to attend. 28 young people attended the workshop and 22 young people participated in the afternoon visit to Gortbrack Organic farm for a Biodiversity Workshop. We intend to work with our community to create a Biodiversity Project in the old site of the Holy Well in Cahersiveen. So far, we have created a questionnaire to ask the local people about plants, we have connected and secured funding for paint for planters, we have been given Insect hotels, Bat Boxes and Bird Houses from the local Men's Shed to place in the Biodiversity garden. We were gifted chilli peppers from Gortbrack farm and told that once chillies were used to plant the seeds. We seized the opportunity, upon realisation that it was possible to ferment these miniature chilli pepper seeds, our motto was at the time of planting, "Mighty oak trees from little acorns grow."

## Hospital Habitat Protectors

**John the Baptist Community School. Limerick. 2020-256. Senior.**



Ruth Maher, Anna Doherty, Cónaill McGuire, Arthur O'Donnell, Mack Rayson-Ward, Darragh Keogh.

We saw a new building being constructed in the school to cater for growing student numbers. We saw another one of our green spaces disappear. We wanted to preserve the green spaces we had left while also compensating for the spaces lost. We decided that planting native Irish trees and providing food to wildlife would allow biodiversity to thrive. We researched where we could source Native Irish saplings and found the Irish Seed Savers Association and contacted Liz O'Sullivan who agreed to provide us with 30 native apple trees. We then brought our idea to our principal who agreed to fund the bus to Ennis and the trees. Our principal thought that funding from the student body would also give students a sense of ownership of the woodland. We brainstormed and decided to hold a green day in school where all First Years would donate 1 euro to the trees. We then held a meeting with the horticultural department in school and agreed that we should use plastic bottles to create birdfeeders which would encourage wild birds to our woodland. The TY horticultural class made these in December and we fill these every week to ensure that there is a constant supply of food to the birds.

## Pollination Nation

**Glenamaddy Community School. Roscommon. 2020-171. Senior.**



Michael Croghan, Shauna Gannon, Leona Scanlon, Conor Tully, Tomás Petit, Caoimhe Lavin.

Pollinators are a vital part of every ecosystem - none more important than the bee. It is a well known fact that the number of bees worldwide is rapidly decreasing. In order to combat this, we decided to set up a pollination garden around the poly-tunnel that already exists at our school. By doing this, we hope to encourage bees and other insects to find a home at our garden, and so help our local farmers pollinate their crops. Firstly, we researched the best type of plants and flowers to put into our garden that would attract pollinators. We then got to planning our garden. We raised awareness throughout our community, hoping that it would encourage others to create their own pollination garden, and so helping our local farmers. All of these things lead to one goal: increasing the number of bees and doing our part to help this planet earth.

## Future of Farming

**FCJ Secondary School. Wexford. 2020-300. Senior.**



Sophie Sheridan, Kate Byrne, Aoife Pender, Amy Corrigan, Katie Butler, Aoibhe MacSweeney, Aoibhe Redmond, Paulina Farynik, Tori Kennedy, Jodie Coleman, Clodagh Cahill

For our project, we decided to raise awareness for and promote 'Blackstairs Farming Futures' which is a pilot programme in our local area. Its aim is to improve the sustainability of farming in the Blackstairs Mountains and to pay farmers through a Results Based Payment Scheme. We hoped to raise awareness for the programme by educating people on the unique heathland habitat present in the Blackstairs. We interviewed the project manager of 'BFF', Owen Carton, to gather more information on the programme. Using this information, we made leaflets and a power point. We went to local primary schools to show the power point and had an interactive class with the students. We distributed leaflets in local businesses in our community. In order to see the work being done in the Blackstairs ourselves, members of our group walked the mountain and met with participating 'BFF' farmers. From our project, we feel we have informed our community on the importance of the heathland habitat in our area, and we have shone a light on all of the work farmers are doing in the Blackstairs to protect our environment.

## Swim for seals

**Loreto Secondary School Bray. Wicklow. 2020-117. Senior.**



Hannah O Toole and Ciara Foster.

Our project is swim for seals, ever since we came into secondary school, we have been very aware of what climate change does to our marine life. We decided that we were going to make a change. We got in touch with an amazing organisation, Seal Rescue Ireland. They were more than happy to help us with our project, and they told us all about how climate change effects seal pups. After we had gained all the information, we decided that what better way to raise awareness for seal conservation then to hold a charity swim.





Sara Liani, Aoibhínn O Sullivan, Kate Harty, Katie Duson, Aisling Conway, Isabel Gurure, Sophie Rynne, Rose Carter, Lucy O Conner

## Saving the Earth One Carbon Footprint at a Time

**Coláiste Muire Green Schools Committee. Clare. 2020-239. Senior.**

So far, we have organised a Climate School to teach younger classes about current climate issues. We have set up an executive for the Green Schools Committee for the first time. This year, we hope to start a herb garden and create a wildflower corridor within the school. Alongside this, we hope to create a bug hotel and habitats for other insects. We are also hoping to buy or make bird feeders to hang in the gardens around the school to welcome more wildlife to our area. Our members hope to fix the rubbish problem we have in the school by getting better bins and printing out a list of what goes in each. This we hope will teach students on how to dispose of their waste correctly. We also hope to cut all single-use plastic in the school canteen that is used when products are bought in bulk. Lastly, we are hoping to organise a Logo competition in the school to try and get our own unique touch within the cluster of green schools in our local area.



Daniel Delap, Cormac O Muineachain, Paul Sheehan, Alanna Murphy, Alex Ryan, Donnacha Ralph, Rian Costello, Josephine Taylor, Roisin King.

## Sustainable Pie

**St John Bosco Community College. Clare. 2020-332. Senior.**

Our project is called Sustainable Pie. We have created a lentil-based alternative to shepherd's pie. This is in a bid to raise awareness about reducing meat consumption to help the climate change crisis. We wanted to show how simple it is to replace one meat dinner during the week with a plant protein-based supper. We have promoted this as a simple one-pot wonder that reduces energy use. We are promoting this idea through cookery demonstrations, tastings, recipe cards and social media platforms.



Aoife Walsh, Rachel Henderson, Meadhbh Hurley.

## Has Climate Change Education gone too far?

**A Kinsale Community School. Cork. 2020-384. Senior.**

We have always been very passionate about climate change and we felt that we were subject to a lot of negative information about climate change in the current education system and noticed how anxious this made us feel. Our project assesses the best way to educate young people on climate change in order to reduce eco-anxiety and promote pro-environmental actions. We looked at how young people feel about climate change education in school and conducted a test to see how different messages about climate change relate to action in youth. We used videos to emphasise different Locus of Control to observe how it influenced people's actions. We did extensive research, contacted experts and politicians, conducted a comprehensive survey and conducted tests. From our study we found the best way to educate young people on climate change and so the next stage of our project focused on raising positive awareness, as we have proven that this is effective in increasing actions. We have designed posters to educate students on what they can do to help the environment and have displayed them in our school and plan on displaying them in other classrooms and public areas in order to further the impact of our findings.



David O'Brien, Una Healy and Finn Radamm

## What are the barriers that hinder Ireland's Greta Thunberg?

**Millstreet Community School. Cork. 2020-356. Senior.**

As an investigation into what are the causes that affect the factors that influence Ireland not having major climate change activist like other European countries. We created our own ranking system where we selected six countries and ranked them under favourable circumstances in regards to climate action. We chose many indicators to use to rank each country such as the legal voting age and legal marriage age in each country, we saw the ages were generally younger in other countries compared to Ireland, this might have been a reason that Ireland did not have a climate change youth activist because the youth in Ireland do not have the freedom that young people do in other European countries. We also came to the conclusion that the main reason Ireland was missing a major climate change activist was because of the curriculum in Ireland. In other European countries Climate Studies/Climate awareness is incorporated into the curriculum, We think if this was to happen in Ireland teenagers would be fully educated and aware about the issue, they could then stand up and make a change in our country, and tell the Irish government to do what they are not doing that should be done. We joined our schools Green Flag committee, we entered an up cycling competition we turned an old worn out tyre into a beautiful and colourful flower Pot, we are trying to cut plastic bottles in our school by designing re-useable bottles for. We are organising an event called 'Wear Your Waste' which is a fashion show/competition and we have designed our own lesson that we have been teaching to the first years all about how they can be environmentally friendly.





Éabha Sheehan, Taragh Casey, Fíá Hurley

## Could Hemp be the Key to a Sustainable Future?

**Millstreet Community School. Cork. 2020-364. Senior.**

Hemp is a type of cannabis. We investigated its products, its environmental benefits and farmers' knowledge and awareness of the crop. We got our inspiration from Irish influencer, Keelin Moncrieff. We wanted to raise awareness and educate. We went to local marts and co-ops, the national ploughing championships and the national dairy show, and there we surveyed farmers and educated them with a fact-file. We also entered the BTYSE where we spoke to an overwhelming amount of people and got an equally rewarding response. People were astounded with our findings. We received a highly commended award. Our project was even pictured on the front page of the Irish Examiner! We believe that, yes, hemp can be the key to a sustainable future. We must facilitate it on our farms today and in the future. If we converted one thing like our paper, plastic or construction in Ireland or even worldwide we could make a huge difference in improving our air quality, as well as rejuvenating our soils and putting extra money in Irish farmers' pockets. If people's knowledge of hemp and its benefits develop, we can end the stigma around this crop and see that hemp is an extremely powerful crop that can change the world we live in.



## Junior Climate Change Activists in Schull Community College

**Schull Community College. Cork. 2020-246. Junior.**



Rowan Lawlor, Alfie Greany, Niamh Toolen, Micheal Murphy, Jayden Spiegel, Juilan Marcak, Eveanna Goulding, Angelica Keaveny, Jessica Crockett, Thalia Mc Guigan, Jackson Little, Niamh Wiseman, Saira Collard O Driscoll, Faye O Brien, Tara Wolfe

In our school garden, there is an attempt to be more sustainable, and to teach that to the students. The Junior Climate Change Activists became a group once we had decided to highlight Climate Change issues, our first action being the School Student strike. We organised ourselves for the strike day action and then continued with more work. We set about putting up bird boxes, wind chimes, hedgehog boxes, and insect hotel in the school garden. We helped get the crisp bag recycling working and making money. We highlighted the issues through posters, our Development education notice board, through media write ups and lots of action. We are a highly motivated group, who want to be challenged. We are also trying to get a water fountain for our basic right of water in the College. The idea of becoming plastic free by September 2020, is our main focus, as is the development of our Community Incredible Edible garden.



Patrick Patton, Hannah Mulcahy, Siobhan Doyle, Eleanor McDaid, Caitlin McGonagle, Caitlin Smeaton, Ornaith Ni Fhearghail

## Sunny Side Out

**St Columba's College. Donegal. 2020-288. Senior.**

'Sunny Side Out' is an environmental campaign organised at St.Columba's College Stranorlar by the Global Citizenship Education Committee. Our project is about raising awareness around climate change and to show how the little things can have a big effect in our daily life and what we can do a personal level to help. We came up with the idea as part of a competition to win part for the cost for solar panels for our school 'For The Love of Solar', organised by Friends of the Earth. However, as a Committee we have been working towards many goals since 2018, among others we have been organising climate strikes regionally and raising awareness in our school around climate issues for fellow students. Our long-term goal is to eventually install solar panels in our school to help with the costs of electricity/heat in our school and lessen our carbon footprint. We have used on many forms of media including Radio (Highland Radio Donegal), Newspapers (Irish Independent and Donegal Daily) and social media including Facebook and Instagram to spread our message. We hope to achieve a sustainable future in our school and wider community and to raise awareness of the effects of climate change, tangible examples being our campaign to remove single plastic bottles from our school community, providing reusable bottles, installing water fonts, planting trees, hosting many experts, activists and politicians for guest talks and running a campaign raising awareness around the carbon emissions generated by our email accounts.



Evan Byrne, Ryan Keogh, Caominhe Goodness, Shanaya

## Australian Fires

**Eco Unesco. Dublin. 2020-189. Senior.**

Our project is about raising awareness on the bushfires in Australia, the bushfires have become disastrous due to years of global warming. We feel that the way people are handling it is not helping the situation and that the way governments are handling it too is horrible. They are not treating it as a big deal and considering how it effects the ecosystem which has so many amazing animals, plants and insects that have perished from it. The animals don't know what's going on, they don't deserve it, so we decided to help the cause and raise more awareness. We made an Instagram page and are doing a swap shop. We think it's a big problem that needs to be stopped. Firefighters are doing what they can to stop them and are doing a great job. Heavy rainfall too is helping but the underlying problem is global warming which is caused by waste, fossil fuels and many more causes. We just want to help with this problem a little more.





June Polgolla and Twinkle Polgolla

## Investigating the antimicrobial effects of herbal plants and vegetables against a plant pathogen, to help the issue of food production loss, the economy

**Loreto High School Beaufort & Alexandra College. Dublin. 2020-490. Senior**

Our project is about investigating the antimicrobial effects of herbal plants and vegetable extracts against a plant pathogen. We hold a strong interest in plant biology and microbiology. Plants being infected with pathogenic bacteria is a global problem as a result of climate change. Globally around 30-40% of food production is lost due to plant pathogens. Our project goals were to find a natural, sustainable method as the current approach is using heavy and expensive chemicals with also limited amount of sustainable pesticides available for farmers. We used agar disk diffusion where agar plates are spread with *Pseudomonas Syringae* Pathovar Tomato DC3000 bacteria, then the filter disks of herbal extracts are placed, and then the bacteria is let to grow at 28degrees Celsius in the incubator. We achieved good results in betel Leaves and cinnamon after four thorough trials and using different methods. A strong zone of inhibition was shown around betel Leaves and cinnamon and they could be used as elements in a spray in the agriculture industry, food industry, and biotechnology fields. Now during the Covid-19 pandemic, we are continuing our project as best as we can. Firstly, we are investigating the growing properties of unused parts of herbal plants, vegetables, fruits e.g passion fruit peels, by watering plants with these solutions etc which would help in the drought crisis. We thoroughly enjoyed working on this project, it was such great fun.



Emily Hogan, Mischa Shah, Emma O' Beirne and Isabel Hughes.

## Beef free

**Sandford Park. Dublin. 2020-036. Junior.**

The name of our project is Beef Free. We chose to cover the impacts of the consumption and sale of cow products on the environment, our general health, deforestation, water usage and its relation to animal rights. We came up with this idea as some of our group members had previous knowledge of this topic and we all found it interesting and wanted to do further research on it. At the start of our project our group wanted to raise awareness about our topic to people our age with our newfound knowledge.

To spread awareness, our group decided we would cut out cow products from our diet to see how easy or hard it would be to live our normal lives without cow products. We found this very enjoyable, and we recorded some meal options and products that don't have cow products in them. We also decided to create an Instagram account to try and inspire others.



Matthew Sweeney, Cian Bert, Sam White, Luca Reuland, Luke Healy.

## Tangible Transport

**Newpark Comprehensive School. Dublin. 2020-105. Senior.**

The aim of our project is to measure and reduce our school's transport footprint. We did this by doing a transport survey with the students, parents and staff. This gave us a good starting point as the results told us what issues we had to target. The results of the survey showed us that cycling, public transport and walking were the most popular methods of transport but there was still a good percentage of people that came to school by car. Armed with our survey results we set about creating a plan to try to encourage people that come by car to use sustainable transport. Our survey results also showed us that the number of girls that cycled were much lower than the boys that cycled so we also wanted to target this area for improvements. We took action by doing a transport survey, creating awareness by having a transport quiz, rewarding students that cycled with an ice pop day and making a video about our work. We also contacted the out of school community through the school app to create awareness about our project. We really enjoyed doing our project and we learned lots about sustainable transport and managing a project within a timeframe.



Safia Hudson-Fowler, Lily Cross, Abigail Doyle, Sam Duncan, Daniel Talbot

## If Not Me, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?

**Newpark Comprehensive School. Dublin. 2020-106. Senior.**

By doing this project we were trying to raise awareness about the issues of food miles and Fairtrade in the attempt get people to become more responsible and buy food which is produced nearby. To do this there were many actions that we had to take: We made a cookbook to show people how easy it is to cook meals from fruit and vegetables that you can grow in your back garden. We made our own vegetable garden in the school grounds. We planned a year-round growing plan for our vegetable beds. We planted carrots and beetroot. We presented a PowerPoint about food miles to our class. We raised money for the Fairtrade foundation by selling sustainable baked products at lunchtime in school. We interviewed a lady about her experience growing her own vegetable garden. Our vegetable garden featured in the school newsletter.





Hugh Brownlee, James Doherty, Johnny Doyle, Alexander Graham-Smythe, Anna Guthrie, Alex Hanrahan, Rocco Hill, Natasha Johnson, Anna Sophia Keane, Nathan Kennedy, Lia L'Estrange, Mia Lyons, Fiachra McDonnell, Brodie McKechnie, Elsa Micallef, Jamie Miller, Martin Molloy, Luisa Mulvihill, Madeleine Murray, Kate O'Grady, Harry Reynolds, Oliver Simington, Sofia Verwijs

## How Green are your Groceries?

**St. Andrew's College - 20Y. Dublin. 2020-315. Junior.**

Our project 'How Green Are Your Groceries?' was concerned with how environmentally friendly the groceries we buy in the supermarket are and which of our local supermarkets is the greenest. We rated 8 different supermarkets around where we live.

Firstly, we chose 10 of the most commonly bought groceries, including fresh fruit, dairy, meat and dried goods. We then assigned a group of students to each supermarket. Once there, we filled in a form that documented price, origin, and packaging and took a photo of the 10 products. Then we took all of the information and compared our lists. We created a poster ranking the supermarkets in order of 'Greenness'. We calculated the kilometres each item had travelled and whether or not the packaging was recyclable. We displayed our poster in the main corridor on the Green Schools' noticeboard. With this information, we will be able to make better, greener decisions. We hope to encourage people on a large scale to buy the greenest products and help raise awareness for climate change. We want to spread the message that even small things like buying a different type of milk on a wide scale really can make a difference.



Anne Marie O'Callaghan, Siobhán O'Donoghue, Gemma Bourke, Kyle O'Connor, Katelyn Brennan, Rachel Murphy

## The Global Gang

**Castleisland Community College. Kerry. 2020-006. Senior.**

In our project we wanted to show people what we can all do in our everyday lives to combat climate change. We focused on the importance of recycling, biodiversity and buying FSC products. (Forest Stewardship Council). We raised awareness of the importance of recycling by making up shoe boxes for the Team Hope Xmas shoe box appeal. We made wooden toys from scrap wood left over from exam projects. Castleisland community donated clothes and toys that were still in good condition but no longer needed. We decorated every door in our school by making Xmas door decorations using recycled items. We also recycled old football boots and donated them to the Kenyan Education Project. Unwanted bicycles donated from the community were sent to Chernobyl Children's Project. We collaborated with Gortbrack Organic Farm and Tidy Towns. This resulted in us planting pollinator friendly plants on school grounds and we made Air Bee and Bees for the river walk located in Castleisland town. We also worked with Kerry County Council and made a model train for Castleisland town. The train was made using FSC wood and recycled items. We promoted FSC household items in Supervalu and our local library. Finally, we worked with FSC International in Germany and we are the first school in Ireland to receive an FSC promotional licence. As a result of our efforts, all Kerry ETB schools have now switched to FSC paper.



Jamie Benner, Vanessa Covaci, Sean Pollman-Daamen, Tracy Donovan, Judith Waugh, Emmett Christie, Darragh Hennesy and Caylin Murray

## Climate Change: Inaction is an Action

**Mercy Mounthawk. Kerry. 2020-035. Senior.**

Inspired by the actions of Greta Thunberg, we wanted to raise awareness about climate change. We wanted to show people the difference between global warming and climate change and how they are connected, as we thought people hear these words a lot but perhaps don't understand them fully. One of our goals was to dismiss the global warming debate as there is no debate - it is happening and by doing nothing about it, we are contributing to the problem - inaction is an action! We focused on diet and clothes as these are most relevant to teenagers, and are two things that teenagers have control over. We used surveys, a presentation and our events to raise awareness and we encouraged people to make little changes to reduce the effects of climate change through our actions: a schoolwide Meat-free Monday (which gained local media attention) and a TY Swap Shop. We hope to make Meat-free Mondays a more regular occurrence at our school, and to facilitate workshops for meat-free lunch ideas in the future.



## Self-Sustainable Sem

**St. Brendan's College. Kerry. 2020-145. Senior.**

Having seen the lack of awareness and action with regards to climate change within our school community, we decided to do something about it. Hence, we embarked on a journey of making our school more climate friendly and self-sustainable. We got together and officially established our climate action group called 'The Self-Sustainable Sem'. Our goals were ambitious, long term and required the whole school community to work together; so we knew we had put in a lot of effort in. Our very first action was to organise a Climate Action Day in our wider school community. There, we planned a number of activities in hopes of raising awareness about climate action and self-sustainability. These included a no single-use plastic day, keynote speakers, a park clean-up and a stand-up initiative. From this day forward, we worked on various smaller tasks and actions in order to achieve and contribute to our overall goal of making our school climate friendly and self-sustainable. Throughout this endeavour, we came up with and implemented the following initiatives: A uniform-renewal scheme, a school-wide single-use plastic ban, a community garden for all the compost waste from our canteen, a new recycling system, an energy conservation initiative, an Instagram page for public awareness, as well as competing in the FOE Ireland Solar Schools Competition where we topped the polls in the public vote in hopes of getting much needed solar panels for our school. We now hope to continue working towards making our school climate friendly and self-sustainable.



Kacper Bogalecki, Ethan Slattery, Gearoid McGorrian, Jason Lee, Rian Gill, Paul Foran, Fionn Mc Closkey, Laimis Janusauskas, Navansh Johnson.





Rikako Yasuda, Celine Schmoel, Eoin Thompson, Ashik Prasad, Michael Jiang, Darius Heghedus, Donncha McCauley, Ciara McArdle.

## Green Games

### Dundalk Grammar School. Louth. 2020-201. Senior.

On this planet that we call home, there is a major Climate Emergency which we are fighting against today. This is an extreme issue that causes disastrous events. We are the DGS Environmentalists, and for the YEA 2020, we developed a board game named 'Meltdown', with Climate Change the leading theme. Together, we formed this game to raise awareness and to encourage everyone to take action, be it big or small, by making it educational and informative but also fun and interactive. We made the game with reused and eco-friendly items, such as an election poster board, cereal boxes, egg cartons, water bottles, etc. It is mixed with 2D and 3D designs that depict the possible outcomes for our planet if we do/don't take action on each half of the board, such as afforestation or deforestation, etc. The game is played by two teams using wooden die, and answering questions on question cards to progress through the game. Whichever team reaches the finish line first wins and determines the outcomes for our planet. This game creates a race between the two teams, and through this journey we hope to encourage them to challenge the views of the world.



Dillon McDonagh, Emily Kusakina, Lucy Finn, Kate Reynolds, Bolu Farombi, Sheila Kapengule, Gemma O'Toole, Hannah Cummins, Darci Harrison Breslin, Sophie McNamara, Micheala Clarke, Anthony Clarke, Megan Loughran, John Nally, Samanta Martinkevica, Immanuel Okobia, Ellen Matthews, Hannah Creedon, Michael Ahrens Black

## Teen Trees

### YSD Drogheda. Louth . 2020-297. Senior.

Our project aims to raise awareness about deforestation and climate change and get teenagers involved in combating this problem by planting more trees in Drogheda. We came up with the idea after learning about the Sustainable Development Goals No. 15 - Life on Land. This goal highlights the importance of tree planting as it relates to biodiversity, our survival as human's, climate change and global warming. This, therefore, formed the basis for our decision to make Drogheda greener by planting more trees as well as raise awareness about the importance of tree planting among our peers. Executing our project will include a tree planting exercise to take place in secondary schools in the area, housing estates, and the public park. To create awareness and get others involved, we also plan to get individuals to sponsor a tree and we put their names on the trees with a picture on social media. We met with school principals and teachers in charge of the Green Schools Committee in our various secondary schools in order to get schools and students involved in the project. We contacted Coillte in order to get trees to be planted. We hope to get more trees planted in the area and to make people more aware of how important trees are in our community.



Áine Rooney, Gráinne Nevin, Katie Sheridan, Louise Murphy, Aoife Cahill, Jillian Hoey.

## Food For Thought

### Eureka Secondary School Kells. Meath. 2020-254. Senior.

When shopping in supermarkets with our family for fresh fruit and veg, we noticed that the country of origin was often not clearly visible on the shelf edge labels or the product packaging. This got us thinking that if consumers had more information, they may make different/more environmentally aware decisions when shopping. This realisation formed the basis for our project which is designing new shelf edge labels to help consumers make more informed decisions when shopping for fresh fruit and vegetables. We decided to investigate creating a formula to calculate a product's "eco rating" which could be included on the shelf edge labels. This would allow consumers make quick and effective decisions. We have concluded, from contacting several supermarkets, that our project is very worthwhile. We got a lot of positive feedback from them and we even got an important suggestion from Lidl to include a QR code so that we can give the consumers all the information that they need to make the best decisions when choosing which fruit and vegetables to buy.



Joshua Stephenson, Lorcan Stephenson, Leah Cawley, Molly Cawley, Katie Mulhall, Cain Baker, Brodie Lynn, Courtney Coughlan, Jessica McDonald, Aoibhe Bravender, Nan Cawley, Kyron Coughlan.

## The Rod Squad

### Teach na nDaoine/Teach na nÓG. Monaghan. 2020-438. Junior.

Our project "The Rod Squad" is aimed to promote the environment in the face of huge barriers. We utilised the established brand of our local 'Roddy the Giant' to excite and energise the young people. We have incorporated birds, bees and bugs into our project to educate the community around biodiversity while linking the local townland with neighbouring land to involve other young people in the project. We have peer leadership, which is participants from previous years guiding the younger generation through the project to pass on the torch. We wanted to highlight the importance of biodiversity in our local town land by creating an eco-friendly walkway connecting two adjacent townlands backing on to Coillte lands creating a biodiversity corridor.





James Hannon, Amelie Le Bourhis, Samuel Akinsulire, Samuel Malone, Conor Lally, Mark Gowing, Robert Eager, Aimee Gleeson, Rebecca O'Connor, Rebecca Gannon, Micheál Keoghan, Jean Carson

## Climate Change In The Midlands



**Tullamore College. Offaly. 2020-222. Senior.**

Our aim was to raise awareness around the issue of climate change in our local area. We chose this project as we wanted to highlight the effects of climate change and just how significant these effects are. Our project consisted of 2 main parts, namely a short film and a book. We produced a 12 min documentary detailing the causes and effects of climate change in the midlands. We interviewed a range of people such as a NUI Maynooth lecturer, Bord Na Mona employees, EPA employees as well as local businesspeople and the general public. Our documentary also investigated what big companies are doing to combat climate change. We launched our movie in the school with invited guests from Midlands science and Dr Craig Slattery, UCD. We also created and published a children's book which explained the importance of tackling climate change in simple ways. We made our own illustrations and used child-friendly language to make young children more eager and aware of climate change and what they can do. We raised awareness in the local area about the project by getting our books into the local library and book shops. Overall, we found that both pieces of work changed people's views, particularly around our locality in relation to turf harvesting.



Jason Fahey, Paul Furey, Ritishpreet Singh

## The effects of climate change

**Coláiste Chiaráin. Roscommon. 2020-075. Senior.**

Our project was about how climate change is effecting the whole world and what we need to do to stop it. We came up with the idea to take action for climate change because it's a very big problem and we need to stop it. Our goal was to raise awareness in our school and our community to let them know that it is a really big problem. The actions we took were: we went around to different classes to tell them about what will happen if climate change gets worse. We hope to achieve raising awareness to not only school but the rest of Ireland



Amy Johnston, Ava Brady, Katie Silke, Nicola Curley.

## Wildfires in Australia

**Coláiste Chiaráin. Roscommon. 2020-084. Senior.**

Our project is about how the wildfires in Australia has affected the climate and wildlife in Australia.

## ECO-Art & Design

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Donal Cronin, Paul Heavin, Ruairi O'Dea, Clemens Jansen, Adam Hartnett, Eoin Turner, Pierre Dumoulin, and Tadhg O'Riordan

## The Patrician Academy Activists

**Patrician Academy. Cork. 2020-202. Senior.**

Our project is about combating the scarcity of trees in our area and raising awareness about the value of bees to our ecosystems. We were shocked by the decreasing number of trees and bees in our local area and we wanted to make a change. We had three main goals: 1. To host an exhibition in the library to raise awareness of this, 2. To participate in a local project with Teagasc involving planting 1,000 trees in Mallow to reduce our carbon footprint, 3. To plant a garden of wildflowers thus nurturing a growth in bee pollination. We took several actions to achieve our goals including holding a music evening with a poetry/poster competition. In addition, giving presentations at primary schools, organising a talk by bee experts from ApisProtect as well as many other actions. As a result of our project, we hope to help to reduce Mallow's carbon footprint, raise awareness and nurture bee pollination.



## UASCHÚRSÁIL CCL {'UCCL'}

**Coláiste Cois Life. Dublin. 2020-276. Senior.**



Abaigh Nic Muireartaigh, Aoife Nic Ghiolla Cearra, Ailbhe Ní Mhaoláin

Our project was focused on the impacts that fast fashion has on the environment and today's society. We saw that there was a problem with fast fashion in our society and decided to do something about it. We came up with the idea of holding an upcycling workshop in our school. We wanted to raise awareness and inspire people to be more conscious about their consumerism. We achieved these goals during our project, and we inspired others to create their own personal eco-friendly projects. We wanted to relieve some of the stigma surrounding this topic and we think this was a great way to do so. One of the ways we did this was by inviting a guest speaker from the New York fashion industry into our school to speak with students. She gave us hope for the future and showed us that change is possible within the industry. We managed to reach over 800 students and teachers through various activities such as podcasts, presentations, posters, etc. We also reached more people in our community through the Domino Effect. We hope that our project can continue to inspire others and create a long-lasting effect in our community.





Conor Nolan, Jack Winterlich, Ryan Hyland, Scott Deegan, Craig Kiernan, Andrew Reddington

## Trash Talk

### Meanscoil Iognáid Rís, Dublin. 2020-271. Senior.

Our project is based on handling waste through art and design. We decided to make a bin out of recycled material. We hope to make the school more aware about recycling and to stop throwing bottles on the ground and ruining the environment.



Siún Smith, Ashling Cahill, Tara O'Reilly, Leone Yore, Patricia Moreno Ortiz.

## PLATS Plants

### Eureka Secondary School. Meath. 2020-021. Senior.

We are PLATS Plants. Our motto is Plactical – being practical with plastics. Our project is about biodiversity and reducing plastic waste. We know the effect plastic has on the environment and our goal was to teach people how to reuse their plastics to support our local wildlife. Siún and Ashling used old plastic containers as plant pots and water collectors to show that plastic can be easily reused. They grew plants and herbs and began to implement our project into horticulture classes. Tara and Patricia used leftover plastic to create artwork and Leone made bug hotels and bird feeders out of old plastic containers, logs and string. Sadly, due to school closures we couldn't take care of our plants anymore and properly continue our project. We've really enjoyed working together to make our school greener but now we were given an opportunity to bring our project back to our roots. On call, Leone and Tara have been teaching us how to make bird feeders and bracelets. Siún and Ashling have started from scratch at home, planting new flowers and vegetables. We've been using this time to make our personal lives greener in our homes and gardens with the help of our families.



Sadhbh Hayes, Saibh County, Eimear McDonnell, Heather Gibney, Aoife Corrigan and Hannah Potter.

## Eureka secondary school

### Take the fast out of fashion. Meath. 2020-251. Senior

Our project is about Fast fashion. We came up with the idea after our group was chatting about online shopping. Our project goals were to make people more aware about fast fashion and the impacts that it has on the environment. Our group decided to hold a Swap shop so that people could bring in any clothes that they didn't want that were in good condition and clean. Everyone would swap clothes with each other and we would make a fun social event out of it with refreshments and at no cost. With the clothes that are left over we planned to create some outfits to be modelled in the Fashion show in our school at the end of the year. At the end of this project we hope to have made everyone aware of the harm fast fashion is doing to our planet and hopefully people won't buy new clothes as much. If the swap shop is a success we could hold some more in the future.



Eva Rothwell, Aisling Healy, Elisabeth Murphy, Emma Tully, Amy Tobin-Cosgrove, Zoe Tobin-Cosgrove, Kate Kavanagh

## Future Fashion

### FCJ Secondary School. Wexford. 2020-329. Senior.

We chose to do our project on the fashion industry and its environmental impacts. Our dedicated team had weekly meetings, set goals and created deadlines. Our main goal was to make as many people as we could aware of fast fashion and its effects on the environment and inform them on what they could do to help. We prepared surveys which we presented to students in our school. We carried out a poster campaign where we created posters and hung them up in our school and in local charity shops. We presented a PowerPoint presentation to a number of students. We also created an Instagram page and uploaded pictures regularly and created polls to make our project interactive. From this project we hope to have influenced our friends, families, the students in our school and our followers on Instagram. We ourselves became more aware of the environmental impacts when it comes to buying new clothes. When it comes to sustainability, you're either part of the problem or part of the solution. Let's save the planet!

## Outdoor Classroom

### John Scottus School. Wicklow. 2020-192. Senior.

Our project is about utilising the environment around us as a positive learning space. We enjoyed any chance we got to be outside during classes, especially during summer, so we decided to make a suitable space where teachers could hold classes more regularly. Our goal is for our outdoor classroom to encourage a return to basic and natural classes, away from screens and computers. We want to design a space that appeals to everyone, where anyone can sit or hold classes at any time. We identified a clearing in the woods around our school. We ensured it was sheltered. We got permission from the principal to cut back a pathway to make the space more accessible. We designed benches for seating. We crafted a blackboard and acquired chalks. We made decorations and furnishings out of recycled materials. We hope to have increased the overall time spent outdoors within our school. We hope that teachers and students alike utilise our outdoor classroom to engage with the nature around us.



Caitlin Doecke, Launders, Claire Kelly, Saffron Bardin, Tien Yi "June" Zheng, Queral Mateu Carol, Claudia Navarro Sanz, Anita Ryan



## ECO-Community Development



Orlaith Twomey and Jennifer Kelleher.

### An Investigation into the Quality of Chilled Milk before Pasteurisation and How long it stays suitable for Human Consumption

**Millstreet Community School. Cork. 2020-450. Senior.**

In developing countries, access to refrigeration facilities from dairy farms is unreliable at times and absent at worst making transportation to a processing facility is a must. This study focuses on the chilled milk samples taken from six different breeds of cow. We focused on the length of time it remained suitable for human consumption and also on the quality of the milk as it aged. Jenny and I come from dairy farming backgrounds and we were horrified to find out that 821 million people were affected by world hunger in 2019, (9% of the world population). As milk is such a complete food, we felt it necessary to investigate how greater use could be made of this valuable commodity in developing countries. Our main goal was to find which breed of cow's milk would last the longest, refrigerated and unpasteurised if it was to be transferred to developing countries. Six breeds of cows were investigated, Friesian, Jersey, Kerry, Shorthorn, Droimeann and Ayrshire. A series of six tests were conducted over five days in Moorepark Teagasc. From our finding we found out that the Ayrshire Cow performed the best in relation to longevity. We found these results to be surprising as Bóthar an Irish International Charity that provides the gift of livestock as long-term development aid currently sends out Friesian cattle to developing countries.



Ella Williams, Ben Nicholson, James Nolan, Richard Delaney, Simona Eremita, Sofia Keogh and Lauren Abraham

### Sustainable Education for Everyone

**Eco Unesco. Dublin. 2020-351. Senior.**

Our project is based on educating primary school children about sustainable development and climate change. We came up with this idea in ECO-UNESCO's Youth for Sustainable Development programme. We hoped that by educating younger people, this could motivate them to act in a more environmentally friendly way e.g cut down on plastic. We are going to make teacher packs to give teachers the resources to teach their students about sustainable development. By making up a lesson plan with recommended time spent on each topic and information about each topic, we thought this would make it easier for teachers to spend time teaching their students about sustainable development. We hope to have a positive impact on the primary school curriculum. We hope that our project will teach children about sustainable development in a simple way that they will understand. Long term, we hope that a sustainable development lesson will be formed by the department of education to be brought into the curriculum to both primary and secondary schools.



Lucy Maples, Hannah Traynor, Martin Nankov, Emma Nankova.

### Wipe pollution off the face of the Earth

**Hartstown Community School. Dublin. 2020-267. Senior.**

Our project was about educating the future generation about waste, waste management, sustainable living and the different methods they can implement into their daily lives to make a real difference. We came up with the idea through brainstorming and finding out what we each are passionate about. Our goals were to reduce the pollution in our community while simultaneously reminding the primary school kids about the environment, how it's in danger and what they can do. To tie in with our goal of getting young people involved in cleaning our local area, we contacted our local primary school, St. Ciaran's NS. We had a meeting with the principal, and we arranged to give a presentation to each 6th class about pollution, particularly in our local area and how individual choices tie into our global pollution problem. We did a quiz, testing the students on what they learned. We then brought our green school students out to our local park to collect litter. We made this fun and interactive by making a competition to collect the most litter. We hope to have achieved awareness among the youth in primary schools, who have the responsibility of preserving the environment.



### THE CLI-MATES

**Scoil Mhuire Buncrana. Donegal. 2020-146. Senior.**



Ewelina Smolen and Ruth Mc Laughlin.

We are a group of Climate Aware students from Scoil Mhuire Buncrana Co Donegal known as the Cli-mates. Our Cli-mates campaign originated in January 2018 when our teacher Ms Denise Dowds, a climate ambassador and climate hero 2018, called a group meeting for all students interested in taking up climate sustainable activities. Two years later and our ecofriendly dreams are coming true. Our 27 active members have written numerous newspaper articles featured in the "Cli-Mate Corner" of the Inishowen Independent, promoted the use of reusable products such as water bottles in our school, purchased bike racks for the local students' sustainable travel, striked in support of Thunberg's Fridays For Future campaign, prevented addition to landfills by upcycling plastic bottle tops into murals to decorate our town, collaborated with TerraCycle in our "Packet In" Campaign and much more!





Sophia Hession, Caoimhe Monaghan, Orlaith Heaney, Aoibheann Mangan.

#### H4H - Help for Homeless



**Cloghans Hill Teen Turn - Mt St Michael. Mayo. 2020-428. Junior.**

Our project focuses on a growing problem both in Ireland and worldwide, homelessness. For us, homeless people don't need coins, they need change! Our project aims to show that we are all responsible for pulling together to try and ease the situation of homelessness. We examined ways we could help as teenagers who don't earn money and couldn't afford to pay money to homeless people or charities. When thinking of how we could help, we focused on the things we and many people have that are plentiful such as food wastage both in homes, shops and the catering industry. We examined trends like fast fashion and how so many of us have more clothes than we can ever wear. Too many teenagers throw their clothes away, we wanted to change this encouraging people to donate their clothes to charities and charity shops. We also researched how best to reach other teenagers, adults and homeless people to develop a circle and cycle of helping each other.



Salomé Maher Bordalo and Sophie McElligott.

#### Period.

**St. Josephs Mercy Navan. Meath. 2020-418. Senior.**

We were inspired by our teacher's volunteer work and grew curious about the 'period poverty' in the world. Not having access to sanitary products is something we never thought about, but it is a big issue for women. Girls should not be limited by such a natural process. We hoped to achieve a handmade sanitary towel that would hold up against those of mass-production in terms of comfort, absorbency and durability. If a handmade sanitary towel could hold up against mass-produced ones, it would empower women to become self-dependent. It would also mean that women could create their own sanitary reusable period product that would allow them to live normally and comfortably. It being reusable will also prevent large amounts of waste caused by packaging from period products, lowering their carbon footprint. It will be affordable, and it will allow females without access to period products to be able to attend education full time to combat gender inequality. We created a peer led programme and made our own pads. We raised awareness about our project by presenting it to classes in our school and putting our full project on display in our main school hall to make the girls in our school more conscious about the waste caused by disposable period products and to inspire them to move towards a more sustainable lifestyle for their periods. We brought our project to BT young scientist and where very successful taking home two awards. 3rd place in intermediate technology group and the science for development award.



Shane Touhey, Edward Hiney, Gerard Fallon, Matthew Hogg, Eoghan Raleigh, Liam Kerr, Óisín Egan, Louise Fagan, Racheal McCann, Darina Hanevy, Sharon Seery, Niamh Collins.

#### Sensory Garden



**Moate Community School. Westmeath. 2020-090. Senior.**

We are a group of TY students in Moate Community School and are involved in a community project with young adults with intellectual disabilities from St Hilda's services in Moate. Our project is about the five senses. This project is an ongoing project is from TY students from previous years.



Laura Molloy and Laura Honan.

#### Loreto Bray for Fairtrade

**Loreto Secondary School Bray. Wicklow. 2020-091. Senior.**

Our Project is to make our school Fairtrade. We came up with the idea by researching different environmental charities. We then saw the option of making our school Fairtrade on their website. Our goal was to spread awareness about Fairtrade and to encourage the members of our school community to make small changes to help make a difference. To do this we organized a workshop with the first years to educate them about Fairtrade. We also had a bookmark competition for the juniors and the winners received Fairtrade chocolate. We also showed the official Fairtrade video to the school during form class. During Fairtrade Fortnight we planned to hold a raffle (sponsored by Twomey's Supervalu Deansgrange) which contains only Fairtrade prizes.



## ECO-Health & Well-being



Kieran, Adam, Alex, Aaronlee, Joe, Rhys, Louis, Luke.

### Continuing to Sow for the Soul

**St John Bosco Community College. Clare. 2020-331. Senior.**

Last year our school wellbeing garden entitled 'Sowing for the Soul' won the senior category award in the Health and Wellbeing category of the YEA ECO-UNESCO awards 2019. This year we hope to continue to develop the garden. That's why our project is called 'Continuing to Sow for the Soul'. We aim to plant more pollinator-friendly plants and create more visual art pieces including mosaics and stone art. We want to get solar-powered lights to illuminate the garden for events in the school in the evening time. We now have an ASD unit in our school and we intend to develop a sensory area to make our garden an even more inclusive area for all our students.



Rachel Murtagh and Úna Rainsford.

### Is Climate Change Affecting Mental Health?

**Coláiste Choilm. Cork. 2020-382. Senior.**

Our project investigates whether the issue of climate change is affecting people's mental health in a negative way or not. We conducted a comprehensive survey with 9 questions which we handed out to over 400 participants. This survey allowed us to do several statistical tests to figure out whether climate change is affecting mental health or not. We did these tests on 2 groups: under 19 and over 19 to see if there was a difference in the opinions. We found that climate change was affecting the majority of people's mental health, however, the way in which it was affecting people was different according to the different age groups.



Luke Murray, Jamie Lee Donohoe, Roisin Shallow, Katherine Orobchenko, Emily Brown, Nadine Lopez.

### Me-Bags



**Crumlin Youthreach. Dublin. 2020-223. Senior.**

Our project is based around recycling and well-being. The mental health first aid bag was initiated through our SPHE programme back in 2018. These bags were handed out to our students as part of the graduation to help equip young people to cope with mental health issues. It was always our ambition in 2018 to try to encourage the students to make this a community project. After ECO-UNESCO came to our Centre and facilitated workshops, we felt that this project could be developed to become a community-based action in relation to the environment and mental health. We are making mental health first aid bags out of recycled clothes and making environmentally friendly products to fill the bags. Having had such success with the pilot project in 2018, we put together a series of teams through our SPHE programme exploring ways that our centre could become more environmentally friendly in relation to the whole aspect of recycling. We have managed to raise the awareness of environmental and mental health in our centre and are now in the process of developing our ME-BAG to share and impact with the wider community of Dublin 12.



Anthony Dunne, Liam Quilmore, Ralph Cruz

### Gardaí of The Galaxy

**ECO-UNESCO. Dublin. 2020-248. Senior.**

We are Gardaí of the Galaxy, and we focused on spreading awareness, letting the public know about eco anxiety. Our group came up with the idea during an ECO-UNESCO youth group session and we decided that not many people knew they had eco anxiety or had any idea of what eco anxiety was. Our group participated in a program called Jigsaw where we practiced peer education, and so our group decided to interview the public about eco anxiety. Our main goal was to inform/spread awareness regarding eco anxiety to the public and young people. Another goal we had was to create a 20 minute documentary about eco anxiety where we include our interviews and information on eco anxiety. Our group decided to set up a social media account where we posted information on eco anxiety, spreading awareness. We also managed to interview a teenager from Australia that suffered from eco anxiety. We interviewed an environmental expert regarding eco anxiety and we also included that into our documentary.





Cora Donnelly, Mary Caramel Mc Cullagh, Alana Flanagan, Aoife Kelly, Holly Cleary, Kay Shanelle Conway, Martina Mc Cool, Blaithin Skett, Conor O'Neill, Ciara Mc Kenna, Leagh Kelly, Eileen O'Hagan, Orfhlaith Henry, Ellie Mc Namee, Erin Murray, Sinead Mc Guigan, Anna McDaid, Saorla Mac Giolla Fhiondaín, Leah Donnelly, Erin Kelly

## Ballinascreen Intergenerational Project



**St. Colm's High School. Derry. 2020-282. Junior.**

We at St. Colm's High School/Cornstore Youth Club teamed up with members of the local Ballinascreen Fold to improve their outside space and socialise with the elder members of our community. We developed an Eco-friendly garden for the residents, many of whom were not fit to carry out this work. We built bird boxes, weeded overgrown areas, and planted wildflower seeds. We made bird-feeders and fat-balls for the garden to encourage birds visiting and members enjoyed seeing them in their garden. We maintained the garden, also carrying out litter clean-ups. We visited and entertained members of the Fold who also held entertainment nights providing music and refreshments for us. We organised pizza and quiz nights for them at Youth Club. We planned to make a wildflower garden feature and seating from recycled materials before Covid-19, instead sending Easter cards to Fold members promising to be back!

We raised €2,100 through a coffee morning for S.T.E.P.S and Macmillan Cancer in October. Local charities S.T.E.P.S and Men's Shed have supported us, advised us on inclusion activities for the well-being of us and Fold members, and helped restore the garden. It continues to be a mutually beneficial project for all in our community.



Caoimhe Flemming, Tiernan Darling, Jonathan Hayes, Jette Grau, Paul Oswald, Mark Roche, Imelda Rodriguez, Eoin Treacy.

## Cycle to a Cleaner Future

**St Jarlath's College. Galway. 2020-262. Senior.**

Our aim was to encourage students to cycle to school as it is way more environmentally friendly than travelling to school in cars. This is a very important issue as cars emit a lot of CO2 which is very harmful to the environment as it is one of the main greenhouse gases which is causing global warming. Another aim of ours was to create a safe environment for students to leave their bikes within the school grounds. This is a major reason why students don't cycle to school as they have nowhere to leave their bike that ensures it won't be stolen. Cycling to school provides an active start to the day meaning students can be more alert during class. Cycling reduces traffic congestion around the town and especially the school gates meaning it is a much safer environment for students. It's environmentally friendly as it lessens the amount of carbon dioxide produced. Cycling to school encourages independence as students are in control of getting to school. It will save parents money as less money has to be spent on fuel if there is no school car journey and a lot of money could be saved considering the rising fuel prices as a result of carbon tax.



Sarah Ivory and Maeve O'Brien.

## Super Senses Sensory Garden

**Loreto Secondary School Bray. Wicklow. Senior.**

Our project is called Super Senses Sensory Garden. This is a garden at our local library where we hope there would be a green open space for people to relax, learn about gardening and reap the benefits of a green space. Our goal for this project was to help develop an open space full of nature for all people in our community. The garden was originally set up last year as an ECO-UNESCO project by 3 students in TY also in Loreto Bray. Some actions we took included raising awareness on the issue through events & social media, visiting the garden itself and researching sensory gardens in detail. We also decorated the garden with not only plants but also objects to enhance the sensory gardens colours and sounds. As a result of our project we hoped to raise awareness on the issue and build a safe and welcoming sensory garden for the whole community.



Peadar Claro, Caolán Ó Conaill, Saoirse Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh, Eoin Mac Uileagóid, Cian Ó Griffin, Eddie Ó Sé, Oisín Ó Muirí, Síle Ní Loingsigh, Aoife Ní Shuilleabháin, Ruadhán Ó Clumháin.

## Bia Beo

**Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí. Kerry. 2020-173. Senior.**

Teastaíonn uainn béim a chur ar bia áitiúil, agus na buntáistí a bhaineann leis, trí an tionscnamh seo a reachtáil. Is léir go bhfuil líon mór daoine ag ceannach táirgí iomportáilte a bhfuil go leor lotnaicídí orthu agus iad ag déanamh a gcuid siopadóireacht, agus ba dheas linn meon an phobail a athrú. Táimid ag déanamh comparáid idir táirgí a dhíoltar sa mhargadh feirme agus i roinnt ollmhargáí difriúla, agus tá sé ar intinn againn alt a fhoilsiú i nuachtán áitiúil chun poiblíocht a ghiniúint. Táimid ag chur agallamh ar bhainisteoir an margadh feirme chomh maith.

Our aim is to promote local produce and its advantages. A lot of people tend to buy imported, pesticide-heavy foods from supermarkets. In order to promote local food, we are making a comparison between produce sold in a farmer's market, and in various supermarkets. To generate publicity, we published our findings in a local website, and we interviewed the manager of the farmer's market.





Martin Mckeown, Paul French and Johnny McQuillan.

### The Water Boys

**South Eastern Regional Collage Lisburn. Antrim. 2020-454. Senior.**

Our project aimed to research water pollution and to develop a low-cost, low-tech water filter prototype using natural filter materials. When we started our college course we were asked to research and solve a problem as a group, and we chose water pollution as it is such a common problem throughout the world. We conducted research and practical analysis to develop and test a prototype which uses calcium carbonate to remove nitrates and phosphates from different water samples. We also took a crash-course in computer-aided design and, with the help of an engineer, were able to 3D print a physical prototype that fits onto standard drainage pipes, and which also has an adaptation to screw on to standard plastic drinks' bottles. This means the filter can be used easily anywhere. Our laboratory tests revealed the prototype removes over 90% of nitrates and phosphates from contaminated water. We have developed a range of skills while working on our research and we were lucky enough to represent SERC at the BT Young Scientist expo in RDS Dublin in January 2020. We are continuing to work on our project, raising awareness of this global issue while developing a potential solution.

### Chicken Feathers as Insulation

**Colaiste Dun An Ri. Cavan. 2020-340. Junior.**



Measure 20g of chicken feathers and add them to the mold. Check the temperature of the mold again but this time with the feathers.

Lauren McCabe and Alannah Clarke.

Our project aims to prove how beneficial chicken feathers would be as an insulator. Every day, millions of feathers are being dumped from factories when they could be recycled! It is an expensive process to dispose of waste feathers and is also wasteful. We propose that Chicken feathers could be treated to ensure safety and used as an insulating material. Our village is home to the largest chicken processor in Ireland – Manor Farm Foods. We have worked very closely with Kingspan and Manor Farm to carry out our project. We visited the lab in Kingspan and were assisted in making a fully functional and eco-friendly sample slab of insulation. Our chicken insulation competes with current building insulation having a competitive U-value and is an innovative original product on the market. We also carried out surveys that were dispersed through social media that show that the Irish public show an interest in switching to our more eco-friendly chicken insulation. Therefore, we are confident that we can reduce not just Ireland's carbon emissions but potentially global carbon emissions somewhat with chicken feather insulation.

### Cycle of Life; The Use of heat produced by decaying plant materials and microorganisms to increase the rate of germination in plant life

**Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh. Cork. 2020-347. Senior.**



David Rasmussen and Seán O' Regan.

The goal of our project is to develop a means of improving the production of plants in domestic and agricultural settings in as sustainable a way as possible. We looked to use the heat given off as the plant material in compost decayed to aid the germination of new plants. This is done by transferring the heat produced in a compost bin through a copper pipe system to a germination bed, in which the heat disperses, warming the soil. We have found that this can greatly aid the growth of new plants and could have exciting applications worldwide as an eco-friendly means of maximizing the resources available to people with the goal of creating a more efficient production process.

### Flax as an alternative to heavy duty plastic strapping

**Abbey Vocational School. Donegal. 2020-350. Junior.**



Ella Doherty and Ailbhe Loughney.

After seeing the problem of plastic strapping on our beaches first-hand, we wondered if flax as a naturally grown material could be a sustainable and biodegradable alternative to plastic strapping because of its incredible tensile strength and durability. In this project we compared the properties of flax fibres, polypropylene, the plastic used for plastic strapping, and carbon steel using CES 2019 edu pack software and we tested the tensile strength of flax fibres, linen and polypropylene to demonstrate the comparatively high tensile strength of flax as a strapping material. We then used linen, which is manufactured from flax and which is a more factory-friendly material, to produce strapping. Now that we have our strapping alternative, we will survey local businesses to see if they use plastic strapping. We will showcase our linen strapping to local businesses that do use plastic strapping and we will survey them again to see if they would use linen strapping on their packages if it was widely available.

### Bee-o-diversity

**Colaiste Pobail Setanta. Dublin. 2020-439. Junior**



Chloe Farrell, Ellie Keogh, Fionnuala Doran and Sophia Corcoran.

We chose to make a project about bees and how we can save them. We had learned about the vast decline of the bee population in Ireland and feared that this trend was going to continue. We wanted to create an awareness of their plight and do something practical to help. The main part of our project was constructing a bee friendly habitat that is safe for bees to pollinate and placed this in our school gardens. This habitat provides a sanctuary for our threatened bee population right in the middle of Dublin 15. We would love to see other schools and businesses join our endeavour!





Sophie Moran, Lara Mac Sweeney, Ava Connolly, Shawna Jones, Kate Devine, Conor Ahearne, Marcus Rodringo, Laura Mc Menamin, Sarah Walsh.

## Coin the Planet

**Foxfrook Parish Youth Club. Dublin. 2020-333. Junior.**

When people show they do well on safe driving using apps on mobile phones, they can get discounts from car insurance companies. When people buy products that care for the planet, why can't they get credit? We hope to develop an application that maps supermarket products into environmental footprints. These will be translated into environmental (carbon, water, plastic, chemicals) credits using defined norms. Using financial options these can be traded for money. We are talking to retailers, companies and banks about generating consumer environmental credits that can be coined (low VAT, loyalty discounts and price discounts). The project hopes to move consumption patterns to more sustainable products that generate credits that "Coin the Planet" and induce a system change in the production of goods and services that people buy.



Zainab Shahid and Mizna Shahid.

## Using chitosan to create a biodegradable, antimicrobial plastic alternative to aid in the reduction of plastic waste in hospitals



**Loreto secondary school Balbriggan. Dublin. 2020-411. Senior.**

Our project aims to use the naturally-occurring polymer chitosan to create an antimicrobial, biodegradable plastic alternative to reduce harmful plastic waste from hospitals. Plastics are endangering wildlife worldwide but hospitals require single-use plastics for sterility. Thus, we used chitosan to create a plastic film that will biodegrade. Chitin is one of the most common organic compounds on Earth, found in shells of crustaceans and shells of various insects, and cell walls of fungi. As chitosan is produced from renewable sources, reuses waste from fishing, is biodegradable, antimicrobial and non-toxic, it is a promising substance in the development of green materials. Chitosan is mechanically weak, so our project uses citric acid (CA) and tripolyphosphate (TPP) as cross-linkers to strengthen the films. Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) was used as an alkali treatment. Crosslinking links polymer chains by covalent bonds, and strengthens the material, along with increasing water resistance. Chitosan was dissolved in acetic acid to make the films. Water absorption, saline absorption, tensile strength and antimicrobial testing was carried out on each film. The best performing films were the NaOH, CA+NaOH & CA+TPP films. They had greater tensile strength; CA+NaOH films had almost twice the tensile strength of the control film.



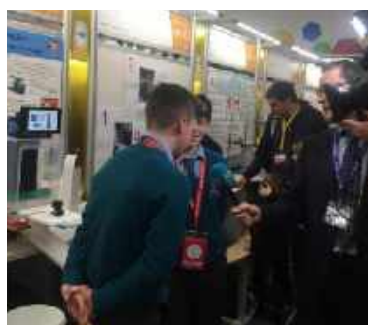
Sarah Boissier & Greta Whipple.

## Are you ready to tumble? Protecting oceans from the microplastics in laundry



**Sandy Mount Park Educate Together Secondary School. Dublin. 2020-377. Junior.**

The aim of this project was to create an eco-friendly bag that would catch microplastics in the laundry and stop them from entering the water cycle and creating more oceanic pollution. We created a bag that is made of 100% cotton. This bag closes with a zip and you would place your clothes in it while washing them. Our bag acted as a filter and caught most of the microfibrils. We checked our results by filtering the water and using a lint roller to collect the fibres caught by our bag. We also examined the results of the Guppy Bag which has the same intention as our bag but is made of plastic which we believe defeats the purpose. We found that the Guppy Bag caught more fibres than our bag but ours had a smaller carbon footprint.



Cathal O'Mara and James O'Malley.

## Bin Buddy

**Castletroy College. Limerick. 2020-479. Junior.**

Climate change is a big worry in today's society and incorrect disposing of rubbish is one of the actions destroying the environment. It is unfortunate that we cannot prevent this disastrous event from happening but we can slow it down. We currently don't recycle 66% of our recyclables. And we want to meet the EU targets of 33% by 2030. This is where our project 'Bin Buddy' comes in. 'Sorting you and your rubbish out'. Our project is designed to sort recycling and compost. To do this we used machine learning. In the process of creating our prototype we used a data-set of 25,000 images to train our computer. From those images our computer made a model on what a typical piece of recycling and compost looks like. Today's prototype is designed so that when the webcam takes a picture of the rubbish it is sent up to the raspberry pi to be compared to the model and from there it will know whether it is compost or recycling. Then the 'sort' button is pressed which will activate our servo motors to open the trap door and direct the chute towards the correct bin.

## Bee keepers what's buzzing

**Mount Saint Michaels Claremorris. Mayo. 2020-447. Junior**

Our project is about creating awareness of energy conservation and the different types of renewable energies that are available. We hosted an energy awareness day in school, where the The Rediscovery Centre carried out an Energy Workshop with our fellow transition years. After that, we gave a presentation to first years in our school and made posters with them. We are displaying these and other posters around the school in celebration of our 'Energy Awareness Day'. We also wanted to make a piece of equipment that would run on solar energy alone, so we created our very own solar oven!



Anna Farragher and Theres Devassey.





Rionach Hackett, Aine McBrearty and Chloe Curran.

### The Eco Powered Dollhouse

**St. Ciarans College Ballygawley. Tyrone. 2020-408. Junior.**

Our idea came about after thinking about renewable energy, or rather, the lack of knowledge about it. We decided to look into renewable energy in greater detail and found out that very few children learn about it in school at a young age. Obviously, we couldn't change what children learn in school so we decided to teach them about renewable energy through play, thus, The Eco-Powered Dollhouse. To raise awareness, we showcased our project at open night so younger kids could see it and are planning a primary school visit or the chance to share our project further. The aim of our project is to teach children about renewable energy through play. We want to enhance their learning and teach them that not all learning has to be boring. Hopefully the children will encourage their elders to take action around them. The more people know about our cause, the better. We believe that renewable energy is an important part of improving our planet, therefore we hope to raise awareness of this important issue. We hope others take notice of our design and are inspired to create more products like ours, further raising awareness.



Eoin Rhatigan and Cian Flaherty.

### Flood Assist

**Coláiste Mhuire. Mullingar. 2020-385. Senior.**

This project is related directly to flood defence and safety. The aim of this project is to investigate the effects of global warming on floods in Ireland and creating an alert system for people living in areas that are prone to flooding. We got this idea from seeing our friends and family in Athlone being badly affected by flooding. We want to help save peoples lives.

## Energy

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Conor Slattery and John Daly

### Data Centres: Actions to raise awareness and pre-empt the growing strain on energy infrastructure and related emissions

**Blackrock College. Dublin. 2020-480. Senior.**

Data centres will soon become the single greatest consumer of Irish energy. As teenagers, we rely heavily on technology for schoolwork, streaming, etc. We are dependent upon data centres to support large parts of our lives. but, as a society, we fail to understand the associated harmful environmental impacts entailed in the operation of such centres. We conducted extensive research and corresponded with prominent members within the cloud-computing industry, alongside academic experts from world-renowned universities. We also contacted companies involved in data-centre design and construction to discuss environmental and energy-efficiency issues. Working to raise awareness, we spoke with people at various climate action events and protests in Dublin, were selected for the RTE Youth Assembly on Climate's Power Committee, and designed and distributed effective graphics and an informative leaflet to politicians, industry and the general public. February's General Election gave us the opportunity to engage directly with politicians across parties, from doorstep conversations and email communications, to detailed discussions after delivering the closing statement at the Climate Hustings in the Mansion House.



Luke Waterhouse, Conor Forrester, James Nolan, Richard Delaney, Ben Williams, Brad Dijon, Nathan Rice, Josh Ussher, Josh Kavanagh, Ben Fallon.

### Bike R us

**Drimnagh Castle. Dublin. 2020-260. Senior.**

Our project was about creating renewable energy. Our main aim was to create bike lights powered by renewable energy and our side project was to create renewable energy powered lighting for our school's garden. We came up with the idea as we all mostly cycle to school or in our free time and find changing batteries in lights a hassle. To start our project we made up some sketches of our system and lights. We then began to create prototypes to make sure the idea worked then we focused in on a final design and made our vision become true. With a few more tweaks and modifications we were then able to produce more of our products and began to sell them.





Conor Pearse, Eoin Duffy, Matthew Blakeney, Kenneth Mulrooney, Evan Walshe, Aoife Hallinan, Robert Hannan, Sean Quinn, Oliwer Olejniczak, Micheal Kilcullen, Aife McGowan, Ciara McCaffrey, Hannah Kilcullen, Conor Dempsey, Natasha Breslin, Hollie Boland.

## Atlantic Wave Energy - Its Ups and Downs

**Jesus and Mary Secondary School. Sligo. 2020-275. Senior.**

Ireland's Energy Policy, 2020, requires renewable energy sources. We conducted an extensive review of the scientific research relating to 'Wave Energy'. We learned that our Sligo coastline is a prime location, internationally, for wave energy. The team organised into a wave prototype group and a business group, with advertising and administration shared by all. We surveyed residents and the results showed there was interest in developing wave energy generation in Enniscrone, that would complement local businesses. The prototype group designed and tested a research model, which highlighted difficulties working with such powerful waves. We consulted with a local Wave Energy company, based in Galway/Enniscrone and with international associations. We built a model based on a different physical principle, and when tested in the sea, worked successfully. Our video got over 1600 views on youtube. We promoted our Wave Energy project with Enniscrone Community Council and on MidWest radio. The business group organised the school kitchen and baked for a fundraising cake sale and got support from the Parents' Council. We successfully generated electricity with our own wave generator prototype, we raised awareness of the huge potential for sustainable energy and we learned how to persist as a team in driving an environmental project.



Cillian Bergin and Michael Haugh.

## Electricity Generating Chimney Turbine

**Borrisokane Community College. Tipperary. 2020-413. Senior.**

For our project we wanted to harness wasted energy from a common household stove/fireplace to generate electricity. Our device consists of a chimney cowl that is mounted on a chimney which rotates from the energy from the fuels being burnt and it's also wind assisted. When the cowl rotates copper wire passes through a magnetic field which generates electricity. We also carried out a comparative analysis of fuels to see which was the most efficient and environmentally friendly, which was our homemade fire logs. We came up with the idea as we passed a large factory every day and saw the amount of smoke being pumped out the large chimneys and we wanted to see what we could do to improve this. Thus, our project goal was to harness this wasted energy to generate electricity. We constructed a functioning device that generates electricity and we carried out a comparative analysis of fuels in order to achieve this. We also tested the functionality of the device to see if it was efficient. What we achieved was that we built a device that anyone with a chimney can use to generate electricity from the energy leaving their chimney.



Emma Flood, Grace Gunning, Mollie Redmond, Niamh Fleming, Sophie Burke, Luke Leacy, Jack Quinn, Holly Davitt, Ciara Doran, Leo Hennessey, Jack Dalton, Jonathan Salmon.

## The Carbon Cubs

**St Joseph's Secondary School. Westmeath. 2020-216. Senior.**

As a group we discovered that there has been a waste of money and a waste of heat in our school that is not good for the environment. We found out that newer schools have door elbows which are a great purchase. We know that it is easy to heat smaller spaces and therefore the door elbows would help create them by closing the doors behind students. Eventually, if we persuade both younger and older students to close doors and windows when they do not need to be open, hopefully they would take this action in school and in their own homes. This would help their families save money also. This would also impact and help climate change. Mainly our action plan is for the school since our school is currently not helping climate change. We waste so much heating every day and a first step to addressing this could be door elbows.



Julianne Nolan, Aoife Murphy, Rachel Kehoe, Laura Conroy, Zoe Lett, Tara Somers.

## Thrive to drive

**FCJ Secondary School. Wexford. 2020-301. Senior.**

Our project is based on the topic of electric cars. We have decided to choose this topic because emissions of carbon dioxide from cars is one of the main contributors of global warming. Our goal is to hopefully educate people enough about electric cars to make them consider switching to a cleaner, more efficient car. The actions we took to achieve this included taking a survey to find out how many already had electric cars and hanging posters in school and in local surrounding communities outlining the benefits of electric cars. We carried out an observation in our local town to see how many people used the electric car charger in the space of time we were there (2 hours). By doing this we roughly got an idea of how many people use this car charger in a day. We found that there is only 0.0003 % of electric cars on the road today out of 2.7 million in Ireland. We hope that at the end of our project we will have had an impact on people's stereotypical thoughts on electric cars.



## Waste



Sinéad Greehy, Orlagh Kenny, Emma Haugh, Alex Harvey, Gerard Geary, Tadhg Boddy, Nicky Haugh, Adam Foley, Jonah Krieger.

### The Plastic Police

**Kilkee Community College. Clare. 2020-144. Junior.**

Our project was about monitoring litter within our school community and creating awareness within the wider local community by liaising with local businesses, tidy towns committee and litter campaigners within the local county council. We gathered our information by interviewing school staff, students, local business people and tidy towns committee. We organised talks from the local environmental officer and tidy towns committee to raise awareness amongst fellow students about the issue of litter and in particular plastic waste. Since we started the project, we have asked our student council to liaise with the principal to put in place a ban of single use plastic bottles in the school, a water fountain has been installed in the assembly area to encourage students to reuse their bottles and, we have organised a monthly tidy up of local beach. There has been a plastic recycling bin placed in every classroom, two students are nominated every week to collect this every Friday. We have noticed a huge decline in the use of plastic which was our target, at the beginning of this project. There were over 500 plastic bottles collected every Friday, now that number is zero so we feel we have achieved awareness amongst our fellow students!



Eoin Gilmartin, Stephanie Connor, Jack Fairfield.

### Measuring the effect of temperature on the degradation of plastics into smaller plastic fragments in water.

**St Anne's Community College. Clare. 2020-414. Senior.**

This project aimed to document how temperature affects the degradation of plastic into smaller fragments of plastic when suspended in water. It examined how two different environmental issues can interact and intersect with each other. Our oceans are being filled with plastics that will stay put in those waters for decades and ocean temperatures themselves are rising. When we came up with the idea behind our experiment, we realised how these two massively concerning issues could make each other worse, as plastic fragments can degrade into micro-plastics, the rate at which that happens could be increased by rising ocean temperatures. With this concept in mind, we started designing an experiment that would test for how much the rate of degradation would change with an increase in temperature.



Megan, Conor, Oisín, Jack, Louise and Shauna

### Sustainable Smiles

**St. John Bosco Community College. Clare. 2020-338. Senior.**

Our project is called 'Sustainable Smiles'. It is an awareness campaign about cutting down on the amount of plastic pollution and keeping our environment clean and healthy. We wanted to show how making one change can make a big difference. We wanted to change students' minds about using plastic toothbrushes and convert them to using bamboo toothbrushes.

We made a one-minute video, spoke to our fellow students, conducted a survey and held a competition to win bamboo toothbrushes, and made giant toothbrushes which we put on display in the school.



Romeo Nwosu, Evan Gavin, Calum Desmond Lynch, Chloe McNamara, Chloe O'Connor, Aoibhín Stack, Naomi Clifford, Niamh Halpin, Katelyn Madden.

### CompGoesGreen

**St. Patrick's Comprehensive School. Clare. 2020-451. Senior**

It started with a desire to reduce the use of single use plastics in our school...and it has become so much more. We could see the world around us changing and beginning to take note of their plastic use and we wanted to be ambassadors for change in our community. We successfully gained sponsorship for the installation of two water refill stations in our canteen, sourced and sold our own Comp-tastic stainless steel water bottles and handmade our own beeswax wraps to provide sustainable alternatives to single use plastics in our school. We then developed and delivered a Plastic Pollution workshop to all staff and students in our school. This included information on the impact of plastic on sea life, the health hazards to humans and the proper use of recycling bins. We took our campaign on the road and delivered this workshop to a local primary school class where we also helped them to make plastic free Christmas Crackers in time for the Christmas holidays. We have continued to spread our message throughout our community by performing Litter Picks, selling our bottles and wraps at our Comp Christmas Market and working with our local Shannon Airport on reducing their plastic use. Our campaign has led to a BAN on single-use plastics in our school, saving over 12,000 bottles so far from landfill. We hope our campaign has helped the wider community to realise the need to reduce their use of single-use plastics for a sustainable future!





Rachel Coburn, Nicole Murphy and Ella Foley.

## An investigation on how different organisms effect the rate of composting waste

Coláiste Choilm. Cork. 2020-365. Senior.

Before we did this project, we knew that food waste is a huge problem in our society today. We wanted to see if adding living organisms such as worms slugs and woodlice would make the process of composting quicker and more efficient. We decided to use pots outside and inside to see which would adapt and work better in their environment. We used clear lunchbox pots that we had at home to save and help the environment and also to be able to look at the process easily every week. We used leftover peelings, mostly carrots and potato peelings as our food waste. We covered our pots outside with bin bags and rocks to make sure there was no heavy rainfall getting into box. We also dug them holes that were snug in the ground. We kept track of the temperature of the soil outside each week. The inside organisms were kept in the same type of container as the outside ones. We emitted them to light and did not leave them in the dark. We checked on them every week. We also checked the temperature of the soil outside every week. We also took pictures of the compost in the containers. Throughout the weeks the organisms ate the food and produced compost. We took samples from each pot and weighed out 12g and we labelled each one and posted them out to southern scientific Overall the woodlice produced the most about inside and the slugs worked better inside and the worms worked better outside.



## The Young Reducers'

Davis College Mallow. Cork. 2020-016. Senior.



Aleksandra Proszkowiec, Alison Murphy, Domas Kalesnykas, Eric Delaney, Rajan Madrzejewski, Natalia Madrzejewski, Noah Cahill, Saoirse Onymetrehia, Grace Black, Mabel Facos Ogbemudia, Stella Nyambo, Lyrah Dooley, Evelyn Avilabo, Cormac Shanahan, Kieran O'Flynn, Clodagh Corcoran, Leah Dully, Nadia Fasuji, Caoimhe Nic Aodhagain, Aoife O'Callaghan, Anna O'Connell, Thomas O'Meara, Jude Scannell, Abbie Walsh, Bolywatife Lawal.

We looked around our school and community and saw the amount of single use plastic that was still being used. Our aim was to ban single use plastic in our school and get the new rules written into the school diaries. We wanted to get a contract signed by the whole school community. We wanted to create new legislation in our school and have an induction for all incoming first years. Our video showed a new generation that wanted change and a difference and wanted to get rid of the 'Young Offenders', both teachers and students in our school. We had different age groups and nationalities in our video to show a connection with the local community and the wider world. Star of the 'Young Offenders', Demi Oviawe starred in our video to help bring more awareness to our campaign. Some children from the local Gaelscoil also appeared. We wanted to show that climate change and waste production and pollution will affect the future generation and it is young people like us that are willing to make a difference. We organised many fun activities and spread our message on social media to promote our campaign.



Caoimhe Horgan and Sinéad Clancy.

## The Real Price Is Consumer Choice: Examining the Effects of Textile Dye and Chemicals from Landfilled Clothing on the Germination of Cress, Developing an Eco- Alternative Textile Dye Solution and Introducing a Waste- Tackling Clothing Initiative.

St Mary's Secondary School Macroom. Cork. 2020-375. Senior.

To take action in diverting landfill waste and holding the textile/fashion industry accountable, we conducted an experiment to see the effects of textile dye from landfilled clothing on crop germination, growth and colouring. We planted three different trays of cress seeds. We watered one tray with fresh water and the remaining two with water previously soaked in clothes. We watered and recorded the plants for fourteen days and we found that the clothes watered with dyed waters had stunted growth and germination of cress. We also repeated the experiment keeping everything the same except we used acid water with a pH of 4 instead of fresh water (this was to create an acid rain environment as many landfills are in such an environment).

We used this damning scientific evidence to show how apathetic consumer disposal habits and the industry itself are enabling ecocide and depleting natural resources. As a direct solution to our findings, we developed an eco-alternative dye derived from vegetables and fruit which instead poses no harm towards biodiversity and is a crucial step in the right direction.

In order to tackle the waste issue directly and to divert landfill waste, we initiated a swapshop in our school community, where we also displayed our scientific results as well as provided suggestions and recommendations on directing landfill waste and ultimately individually boycotting fast fashion.

We also had the opportunity to make a speech and presentation of our project and its findings to the student body and we were interviewed by The Irish Times.





Mia Baikie, Rebecca Greene and Eve McCafferty.

### Bag it up

**Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada. Donegal. 2020-186. Senior.**

We created Muslin Bags to fight against plastic pollution! The goal is to educate people further on the real-life damages of plastic and how it can and will affect our future if we don't fight against it!



Daire Conlon, Michael Bonner, Conor Houston, Cormac Proctor.

### None of your beeswax

**Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada. Donegal. 2020-187. Senior.**

Our project was beeswax wraps, a substitute for cling film, tinfoil or any other plastics that are used to preserve food. Our product uses old bed sheets, clothes and beeswax to create a wrap for preserving your foods. We chose beeswax because beeswax is a natural antibacterial product. Our project goal was to get more people to use a more natural material to preserve their foods instead of wasting materials such as cling film or tinfoil. We put up posters in our local area. We created the product and tested to see if it would preserve food as well as other products. We hope to get more people using our product as it has a better impact for the environment and puts less strain on the planet.



Conor Walsh, Paddy Joe Boyle and Katie Ward.

### Sópa Sóculach

**Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada. Donegal. 2020-188. Senior.**

Because of its convenience and good marketing, liquid soap has gained popularity over the last few decades. People live fast lives and haven't stopped to think about the impact of liquid soap. Big companies package it in attractive ways and people just grab it off the supermarket shelf without considering the other environmentally friendly options. A lot of energy and packaging is wasted while making liquid soap. We showed that a bar of soap can be made using little energy and packaging but at the same time it is very beneficial to both people's health and wellbeing and the environment. The soap we made is biodegradable and hypoallergenic. We used environmentally friendly brown paper and recycled twine or preloved ribbon to package the soap. We raised awareness through giving presentations to classes in the school. We hope to make the soaps available at a local fair.



Maksymilian Frackowiak, Brandon Ashe, Arkadiusz Skrzypczyk, Matthew Cullen, Liam Quilmore, Niel Eryk De Torres, Croi Lenihan, Luke Ashe.

### Sustainable United Compost Committee

**Meánscoil Iognáid Rís. Dublin. 2020-247. Junior.**

We are the Sustainable United Compost Committee, and we wanted to make our school more environmentally friendly. After our first meeting, we decided that we wanted to reduce the food waste in our school and improve the biodiversity as well. To do this, we decided to make a composter to be made out of wooden pallets that will be recycled. We wanted to reduce the food waste at our school with this, and also make compost. The compost that will be made will be used to plant bee attractive plants that then will lead to pollination around the area. We wanted to spread awareness in the following ways. We wanted to put up easy to read legends that show what can be thrown into a certain bin. We realised that many students are uneducated about recycling, which we feel isn't that hard to understand. Posters showing students that we are doing this will also be put up.





Corina Herbert, Shannon McHugh, Katie Monks, Diana Ignatescu, Jill Brown.

## Turtle Tactics

**Mercy College Coolock. Dublin. 2020-100. Senior.**

We aimed to raise awareness on single use plastic in our school and the importance of climate change as it will affect our generation. As a group, we really care about turtles and how they are being affected by plastic waste in our oceans. We designed a product which promoted metal straws and reusable cups in our school and local community. We collaborated with staff and students in our school during our Climate Awareness week, and held lunchtime activities such as climate bingo, climate quiz, climate treasure hunt, climate surveys, climate facts announced daily as an intercom message, presented our project at assemblies and encouraged students to play 'cards against climate'. We also created a three-minute climate video called - A Glimpse of our World. We communicated with school management regarding a policy on plastic in our school & with the help of funds from the Worldwide Global Schools we intend to install a water fountain and encourage students to bring in reusable bottles. We also created an environmental newsletter and are in communication with a local advertising company to create an advert to further promote our metal straw product. We used social media Facebook and Twitter to promote our environmentally friendly product as well as attended a local trade fair. We have been very successful in communicating with our school community and the public to promote our goals, our environmentally friendly product and promoting awareness about plastic pollution and the solutions to a plastic free lifestyle.



Rachel Sheehan, Sean Long Lambert, Ben Jordan, Jack Carter, Robyn Young, Sharon Kaziba, Mia McMahon, Maia Moore, Ching Pang, Aine Swan Bolton, Jodie Corcoran

## Clean Up and Green Up

**Pobalscoil Neasáin. Dublin. 2020-169. Senior**

Our project was (and is!) a re-invigoration of responsible waste disposal in our school and local area. After we noticed a significant drop off in the school's recycling efforts and that none of the bins were being used properly, our group decided to take up this responsibility and to effectively bring back responsible recycling and waste disposal throughout the school. Along with this, we decided to monitor the use of re-usable water bottles with first year students, and have introduced an incentive programme for those students who actively use their own water bottles, and encourage the student who don't to do so. To raise awareness for all of this, we have combined our artistic skills to paint a large mural depicting the climate crisis, and have spray-painted quotes from Young Climate activists across the school. We have created an assigned recycling area for first year students, which will be rolled out across the school over the coming months.



Holly Hewson and Ava Henson.

## The Write Way

**Rathdown School. Dublin. 2020-157. Junior.**

In our project, we wished to draw attention to the number of markers and pens that end up in bins, landfills, or even oceans annually and suggest some sustainable alternatives to our school and our community. We believe that in the midst of a mass extinction, every little thing counts, and we want mass-production companies to recognise this and improve their products to make them more environmentally friendly. We took action wherever was possible, meeting weekly to discuss the project, FaceTiming to do the project, presenting PowerPoints to our classmates and school to enlighten them on the sustainability of markers, opening Instagram pages to answer questions and provide information, sending emails to shops in Dublin to ask them to improve their stock of reusable markers, sending surveys to schools in Ireland to learn about their use of markers and pens, and setting up refilling stations for markers in our school. We hope to raise awareness on this issue as it is important to us and we believe it will help us take a step towards a more sustainable future.



## Save Our Seas

**Rehabilitation Training - Central Remedial Clinic. Dublin. 2020-426. Senior.**



Ali Erdem and John McDonnell.

Our Project focuses on plastic in our ocean and the effect it is having on our ocean. We choose our project because we wanted to make a positive impact in our local area and on our planet. We decided to use materials collected at our beach clean-up, at home and in our centre to create art pieces designed to be showcased in our art exhibition in May. We wanted to create awareness, reduce the plastic pollution and usage in our area. We ran a water campaign 'Rethink your drink', the aim of our campaign is to educate people on how to choose a healthy drinking option and to use a reusable water bottle. Our team arranged a beach clean-up on our local beach to reduce the waste entering our ocean. Raheny Tidy Towns gave us equipment and Ryan Andrews supported us at our clean up. We created awareness posters and displayed these around our centre and in the community. Throughout this project our team learnt so many new skills such as team building, communication, research, organisation and time-keeping. Our art pieces were to be displayed in our art exhibition in May. All of our team and fellow peers now use reusable water bottles and are arranging future clean-ups in our local area.





Sanjay Menon, Alan Choi, Louis Puech.

### Reducing Plastic Packaging

**Sandford Park. Dublin. 2020-033. Junior.**

Our project was about reducing plastic in packaging. We came up with this idea since this was something we were passionate about. We wanted to raise awareness of this issue. We made a petition online. We were going to order socks to see how much packaging different companies use but coronavirus got in the way. We hope to raise more awareness once coronavirus is over.



### Ban the Bottle



Georgina Hurler, Kelsey Mc Anasnie, Caoimhe Smith, Nicole Tyrone, Caitlin Barrett, Mia Harte, Shiela Anyi, Taylor Kelly, Layla Kearns, Megan Nolan, Carlie Morrissey.

**St Michael's Holy Faith Secondary School. Dublin. 2020-214. Junior.**

We have decided to raise student and staff awareness of plastic usage and how it effects our environment. We have highlighted ways to cut back on plastic use and how to recycle. We have decided to introduce a reusable water bottle to our school available at a low price. Hopefully this will reduce the use and waste of single use plastic bottles. We have surveyed students to see how many people use a reusable bottle in school and we will carry out another survey later in the year to see if more students are using reusable bottles. We have decided to have bins just for plastic bottles. These recycled bottles will be used to decorate recycling bins so they will stand out to people. Hopefully this will send out a strong message about climate change while highlighting unnecessary waste of plastic.



Valentina Baratta, Jenna Blair, Moya Bourke, Neala Byrne, Rafael Cecilio-Walshe, Pippa Cole, Isabel Connolly, Philip Devlin, Justin Evers, Eavan Farrell, Lorenzo Grosso, Joe Hennigan, Molly Heron, Amelie Jacobs, Christopher Lane, Oliver Malfavón-Lund, Hugh Meagher, Eve O'Meara, Anna Osborne, Thomas Ryan, Hannah Scanlon, Zac Varian, Fara Wagemakers, Lucas Zhang.

### Research, Replace, Restore

**St. Andrew's College - 20N. Dublin. 2020-326. Junior.**

Our project was 'Research, Replace, Restore'. We conducted a survey on people's plastic waste across 2nd year students in our school. We researched alternative products that help to reduce plastic waste e.g. replacing a plastic toothbrush with a bamboo one, using a lunch box instead of clingfilm, reusable water bottles instead of lots of single-use ones. We presented an assembly and launched an awareness campaign highlighting easy replacements for single-use plastics and where to get them. Then we challenged our participants to reduce their plastic waste by making the small changes where possible. We are due to complete a follow-up survey to see how our participants made any of the replacements we have recommended. We hope to see a change in student habits and less waste in our school. We chose this project idea because we need to reduce our plastic consumption and there is an excess of non-recyclable waste in the sea and on the land. It is not good enough to recycle, we must also reduce. We hope by doing this project we will raise awareness and reduce single-use plastic consumption in our school. If we work hard, we can make a difference, restoring our planet.



Ella Slater and Kate O'Grady.

### Coffee Waste

**The Teresian School. Dublin. 2020-349. Senior.**

Our project talks about the large amount of coffee waste being put in the bin each day all over the world and what we could do instead of throwing it out. We researched several ways of using this coffee waste more efficiently, and instead of throwing it in the bin we could use it as fuel for fire or fertiliser in a garden. We came up with the idea for this project as we recently completed our barista course and we were amazed at the amount of coffee waste that we as a group made and couldn't even begin to imagine the waste the whole of the country, let alone the whole world. We thought that there has to be a better way to use this waste instead of just throwing it straight into the bin.





Andrew Gordon, Riain Kennedy, and Reuben Florisson, first years from Colaiste lognaid SJ Galway with their project, Bottle shot a nudge in the right direction.

Riain Kennedy, Andrew Gordon, Reuben Florisson.

## BOTTLE SHOT - A Nudge in the Right Direction

**Colaiste lognaid. Galway. 2020-440. Junior.**

Everyone is aware of the plastic problem, but awareness of a problem does not always translate into action. The biggest threat to climate change is INACTION. Changing long standing behaviour is going to be critical in saving our planet. We all need to do our part. For our part, our focus is the environment; or as we like to put it - our ENVIRON-MENTALITY. Our project involves the practical application of NUDGE THEORY in a school environment to determine how our Environ-Mentality could be supported to influence the behaviour of students and make their recycling habits better, by steering their choices in a direction which will benefit our environment. To encourage participation, we used GAMIFICATION. We developed BOTTLE SHOT - a free throw basketball-based challenge which invites students to shoot their recyclable bottles into a recycling collection point. Our goal was to create a fun, interactive, and competitive challenge, with quantifiable results to determine whether this nudge has a measurable impact. We wanted to assess whether the use of the behavioural science of nudge theory could optimize recycling in schools. We COULD and it DID.



Abigail Bates, Aoife Kavanagh, Haleema Nasir, Iqra Mubarak, Fatima Bibi, Shafia Urooj, Elmin Taufik, Michelle Zhang, Christina McCarthy, Ajirah Hanifi, Wajeeha Shahzadi, Maha Shahzadi, Mariam Sanjrani, Aine Carr, Kaja Bozi, Anastasia Kuftova.

## Fashion Frenzy

**Coláiste Nano Nagle. Limerick. 2020-178. Senior.**

Our goal this year was to investigate the causes of fast fashion in Ireland and abroad and to highlight environmental issues around this topic. We chose this as many people are unaware that our current spending habits on fast fashion are contributing to climate change such as microfibers entering our waterways from washing, clothes being produced by workers in poorer countries in poorly paid and unsafe factories and cotton requiring so much water to produce. What we did: We held a selection of environmental actions such as holding a fast fashion flash-mob, an up-cycling workshop for 1st, 2nd and TY students, we organised a charity clothes collection, made intercom announcements each day to raise awareness along with creating fast fashion posters. We took part in fast fashion webinars online. We set up an Instagram account to highlight this important issue. We attended a climate action talk and discussed our research on fast fashion. Finally, we interviewed members of Limerick's Tidy Towns and created a fantastic film on their vital work in our community. We hope next year to create more up-cycled items and launch an awareness raising day in our school. We also want to investigate and contact fashion retailers to see what actions they are taking to become more sustainable.



Chloe Ryan and Sinead Tierney.

## The Baptist Waste Busters

**John The Baptist Community School. Limerick. 2020-199. Senior.**

The main aim of our project was to lower or totally get rid of plastic waste such as plastic bottles and boxes in our school and to try and get the pupils in our school to bring their own reusable water bottle instead of buying a plastic bottle from the canteen. We called this 'Boxit' (boxes exit our school). We came up with this idea when we were in the canteen and saw how much plastic was being used once and then thrown away to be found in a dump, or even worse in our sea to harm our sea life. To help with the plastic bottle situation our school installed a water machine so this encouraged more students to bring their own reusable water bottle and also benefited the students because they can fill up their water as many times as they want when they want. The water machine also counted how many people used it a day so we could see was there a difference in people buying bottled water. We also put out bins especially for the used plastic boxes after lunch and the horticultural classes used them as tubs for planting seeds in after they were rinsed out. Our goal for this project was to see a drop in students purchasing plastic bottles and tubs, we did achieve this as we saw a drop in people buying bottled water and more people brought their own lunch instead of buying dinner in plastic containers.



Niamh Battersby, Kate Beggy, Aoife Byrne, Aibhe Cronin, Eabha Delany, Rianna Dolan, Leah Duffy, Aimee Ennis, Neil Finnegan, Lisa Golden, Eimear Monaghan, Diana, Tudorache, Tadhg White.

## Operation transformation; Slim Down Your Waste

**Ashbourne Community School. Meath. 2020-491. Senior.**

We're a group of TYs working to protect our planet by reducing waste at school, at home, and in the community. Our initial plan for our "Slim Your Waste Challenge" is on hold due to the virus restrictions. It had us 13 TY students behind it as well as a school body of 1,200 students up for the challenge. We invited Aoife Moggan in to discuss our first action, a clothing swap, with us. She's a past pupil who is knowledgeable about the topic. She's pictured in the photo we've included. We adapted to the restrictions and took our campaign online to challenge our followers on social media. We intend to provoke thought and make the most of this opportunity we have, to look at how we live our lives and shift our priorities to what's important. We can still fight the worst effects of climate change, but we must act now. This is the area we're focusing on and we aim to benefit everyone who joins us. Waste uses resources, energy, and produces unnecessary emissions. It's a developed-world problem and must be eradicated if we're to become sustainable. Follow our Instagram (@slimdownyourwaste) to follow our journey.





Genevieve Hughes, Abigail Cameron and Kate Treacy.

### Take it from the tap

#### Eureka Secondary School. Meath. 2020-052. Senior

Our project is called Take it from the Tap. We are trying to encourage our school community and wider environment to swap their single use plastic bottles for reusable ones. We have done research and discovered that single use plastic has harmful effects on our health as well as our environment. We also know that by swapping out your single use plastic bottle you can save a lot of money. We took a survey of 1st to 4th years in our school and found that a large number of this population uses non reusable bottles. THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE! We hope to make our school single use plastic bottle free.



Jane Egan, Emma Nally, Linna Chen and Katie Keegan.

### Recycling Reformers

#### Coláiste Chiaráin. Roscommon. 2020-072. Senior.

Our project was about properly sorted recycling. To come up with the idea, we brainstormed about issues we felt were important in our local community. The goal of our project was to educate our local area on the importance of recycling and the correct items to put in the recycling bin. We created informative leaflets to distribute around our local area. We also created a dress made from recyclable materials as a visual aid. We hope to reduce the amount of contaminated recycling bins in our area through this project.



Mark Greene, Brian McEvilly, Mark Freeburne, Dara McGuinness.

### The Fiddlers alternatives to plastic

#### Coláiste Chiaráin. Roscommon. 2020-073. Senior.

Our project is aimed to remove single use plastic within our school and to find alternatives to these single use plastic items to be used in place of them. Our project involves raising awareness by making posters and putting them all over the school. We would also hold talks within our school and primary schools encouraging them to switch away from single use plastic.



Osín Keaveney, Corin Tevenan, Steven Lyons, Sean Heneghan.

### Waste Warriors

#### Glenamaddy Community School. Roscommon. 2020-191. Senior.

Our project was aimed at reducing the waste going to landfill in our school with special attention to our canteen and GP Area. There was a lot of waste going into our land fill bin and we wanted to investigate ways that this could be reduced by encouraging and educating the students on how to use the correct bins: landfill, recycling and compost. We also wanted to increase the number of bins in this area and to make these bins more visible and user-friendly.



Katie Bourke, Ellie Hadnett, Ciara Ryan, Lauren O'Dwyer, Meave Ryan, Ava O'Donnell, Berdenatte Delaney, Marianna Fletcher, Aoife Maher, Michelle O'Doherty, Mary o'Leary, Alish Finnan, Chloe peters, Kyra Duggan, Eilish Dowdall, Karolina Jagla, Rebecca Ryan

### Sustainable Style

#### St. Anne's Sec School. Tipperary. 2020-295. Senior

The project aspires to educate young people on the environmental and social cost of fast fashion. It will encourage young people to buy sustainable by buying second-hand clothes. We are running a campaign on social media to highlight the waste created by over-consumption. We want to combat the message young people hear from bloggers to buy new clothes for every occasion. This is not sustainable or normal. Most of our clothes contain plastic, are not biodegradable and end up in a landfill after just a few wears. This must stop. We have partnered with self-help Africa charity clothes shop in our town to make their clothes relevant to young people. We had clothes drive in school to highlight the waste created by fast fashion and will hold a charity shop fashion show to encourage the school community to consider second-hand clothes. We also ran a poster campaign in school and spoke to students about the negative impact of fast fashion. We want to reduce the financial burden on young people to keep up with the latest trends determined by the fashion industry and encourage creativity and individuality in the clothes we wear. We organised upcycling workshops to recycle old clothes. We were active on social media, local radio and local news to highlight our campaign.





Chloe Jacob, Sofia Zukh, Myra Rashid, Chloe O' Driscoll, Fawn Delaney, Mera Abdelaal, Stephaine Asante, Caitlin Telford, Elena Gallagher, Ida Kwakuvi, Fardoosa Shaficii, Victoria Franco.

## County Clean-up Scheme

### St. Angelas Secondary School. Waterford. 2020-124. Senior.

Our project is the creation of a scheme entitled County Clean-up Scheme. This is a scheme to help improve our coastal and urban areas in our county. This scheme is one based within our schools and relies on student participation. This scheme would lie on two pillars; 1) Class involvement 2) Group innovation. Regarding the first pillar, each class in Waterford would receive one day off school to participate in a class clean-up in their assigned area. Once each group would return with the decided quantity of rubbish, they could then take the rest of the day off school. Exam year students would be prioritised at the start of the year. With this scheme there would be over three schools cleaning our town per week for the entire school term. Regarding the second pillar, we plan to initiate a long-term project that would be completed by 1st, 2nd and 4th years. In their CSPE and current affairs classes, they would have to create a group project under one of the following headings; 1) Transport development 2) Innovation in Climate Change. We plan to create a proposal to present to our board of education to implement and implement this practice within our school.



Dylan Enright, Kiernan Daly, Dara Gorman, Lorcan Murphy, Nojus radzunis.

## The Plastic Plague

### St Joseph's Secondary School. Westmeath. 2020-215. Senior

If nothing changes, it is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. Today, every minute, one million water bottles are being bought and sold. We, the younger generation, are currently adding to the pollution and we want to put a stop to it here in St. Josephs. We want to drastically reduce the amount of plastic used in our school. As J.F.K once said "every person can make a difference and every person should try." We believe our project can make a difference not only for our school but for schools worldwide. As of January 2020, our school no longer sells plastic bottles in our canteen or gives out plastic cutlery. This has helped us to ban the use of single plastic in our school. Our project is based on the concept of recycling in our school and reducing the amount of plastic we use. We have taken many actions to promote our project. These include social media campaigns, PowerPoint presentations, posters and finally a competition for first year students where they made an Eco - model project made from recyclable material only, to raise awareness and to show that they care about our planet. We feel we have made a positive impact on our Environment and we will continue to work on our project in the future.



Aoife Canavan, Aoife Temple, Enara Soden, Sarah Maguire, Abigail Murray.

## LB Plastic Free

### Loreto Bray. Wicklow. 2020-137. Senior

The overall goal of our project is to get all single-use plastic out of our school, Loreto Bray by 2022. We have done and will do so in a number of different ways. The main way we have promoted getting all single-use plastic out of our school is by introducing school Hydro-flasks, with a logo and print designed by us.



Éimhín Morgan- Fennessy, Stéphane de Bairéid, Ryan Crinnion.

## Is Humanity Becoming More Eco-Friendly

### Presentation College Bray. Wicklow. 2020-266. Senior.

Are Younger Generations Becoming More Eco-Friendly? In light of the recent rise of environmental awareness displayed by the youth of Ireland (e.g. the Fridays for Future Movement), we have never been more aware about the current climate crisis. Despite the positive change in attitude, it is still unclear if our behaviour is changing. This poses the question in our research as to how the population of Ireland is acting upon climate change through their behaviour and lifestyle choices. In order to answer our question, we created an ecological footprint calculator, which is a survey consisting of various questions about one's human activity. Each answer correlated with a point score, thus giving the respondents overall footprint. We split the respondent's into different generations i.e., primary school, secondary, third level, etc. in order to gain an insight of the different scores of each generation. The results of our research were quite surprising. Not only are younger generations becoming less eco- friendly, but no generation came near reaching a sustainable score. As a result, we identified the areas in which were causing the high scores and created suggestions.



Raven Gabriel, Éimhín Morgan-Fennessy, Emily Murray, Charlie Foster, Tasha Byrne, Alex Brady, Amy O'Shaughnessy, Abbie Power, Cillian Mulligan, Conor Moloney, Hannah O'Toole, Niamh Davies.

## Bray B.S. ECO-UNESCO

### Youth For Sustainable Development Bray. Wicklow. 2020-265. Senior.

Bray B.S. is a project designed and produced by ECO-UNESCO group, YSD Bray. We are a group of TY students working on a new bin scheme for our town. As we are a Bray-based group and most of our members are from the area. We have all seen first-hand the effect of litter and poor waste removal services in our community. Not only can it lower morale to live in an unclean environment, it affects our towns tourism and significantly negatively impacts our environment, especially since Bray is a seaside town, a poor bin scheme leads to lots of sea pollution. Our aim is to propose a new, sustainable bin system to our county council that would include more solar and segregated bins as well as more bins in general. We hope to achieve this by persuading council members with the support of local businesses. We've also launched a social media account to raise awareness around the litter problem in Bray and to encourage young people to think about their waste and what they do with it.



# Water

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## River Clean Up



Ben Hovenden, Liam Bradley, Abbey Campbell, Lucy Carbery, Ciara Glynn.

**Carlow Regional Youth Service. Carlow. 2020-009. Senior.**

Our goals for this project were to collect waste that was floating down the river in town. We did this in order to gather hard data on the types of waste products were in the river, to raise awareness on this subject and finally to make an art piece from some of the rubbish we collected. We had no budget for this project and recycled/upcycled all the pieces we used to make our floating net.



## The Grey area within Greywater



Alice Davoren and Emily Cullinan.

**Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna. Clare. 2020-378. Junior.**

Our project comprised of two parts. The first part was a research project looking at the effect that the use of greywater containing detergents or any soap products had on the chemistry and earthworm population of the soil. Having found that it had a negative effect on the population of earthworms we decided that this should be highlighted. We want to let people know that the use of greywater that contains detergents or soap products of any type reduces biodiversity in the soil and that is bad for the soil. We highlighted this problem with the environmental section of Clare County Council, through the Clare Champion and to parents, staff and students in the school by a website and a poster campaign. We also got our message out to a large number of the public when we took part in the BTYS. We got a great reaction from the public at this event and informed the public of the consequences of using greywater containing detergents or soap products.



Emily Hearne and Faye O' Connoll.

## Hydroponics Vs. Ithir: Cén Cheann atá níos fearr?

**Coláiste an Phiarsaigh. Cork. 2020-374. Junior.**

Our project is a comparison between growing plants using the traditional soil method and the hydroponic method. Our inspiration came from a BBC documentary on aquaponics (another form of hydroponics). Our aim was to find out which was the better method to be adopted across the globe (ie which one uses less water, grows faster, and is more economically/environmentally friendly). We each grew four plants hydroponically, and four plants using the soil method. For six weeks we measured height, water usage and leaf length. After six weeks of comparing, measuring, and gathering information, we reached our conclusion. The hydroponically grown plants had larger leaves, lower water usage, and overall better results. Commercially grown hydroponics can be stacked, using less space making it a feasible alternative for growing plants in built-up cities. In the long term this option requires less travelling, thereby resulting in a lower consumption of fossil fuels and a cleaner, friendlier option for the environment. These are only some of the benefits of growing hydroponically. At the BTYS 2020, thousands of people attended with many stopping at our stand investigating our findings. We were delighted to encourage them to try hydroponics for themselves.



Eoin Moore, Eoghan O hAllurain, Eva Mc Donald, Keith Campbell, Emily Moore.

## Lifes a beach

**Ardgillan College. Dublin. 2020-206. Senior.**

Our Project, "Life's A Beach," involves studying the effects that plastic waste has on our local environment. We came up with the idea when we witnessed the pollution around us and we are also very passionate about the topic as we live near the sea. We are also trying to raise awareness among young people and the people in our community about the importance of keeping the beach clean of any harmful plastics. To do this we made a sculpture out of recycled plastics and took part in beach clean-ups. We also worked with local people such as councillors, artists and volunteers. However most importantly we worked with each other. We successfully taught primary school students and students in our own school about recycling, plastic pollution and the effects on our community. We were able to showcase our sculpture to the people of Balbriggan and therefore raise awareness about the immediate effects of plastic on our coastline.





Sean Kelly, Sara Piare, Maisie Norton, Lea Prestage.

## The Sea Saviours

**Newpark Comprehensive School. Dublin. 2020-107. Senior.**

We are the Sea Saviours and our project is about ocean pollution and the effects it has on the earth. Our goals were to clean the beaches of south Dublin and to raise awareness of plastics in our seas. We carried out many actions such as several beaches cleans, the selling of sustainable products in our school and multiple workshops with both our fellow 4th years, 6th class and other secondary schools and primary schools too. One of the greatest achievements throughout this project was being able to teach a younger generation about the problems that we face when it comes to ocean pollution and how we can help to combat the effects. Another of our achievements was cleaning some of the beaches in our local area and partnering with a local beach cleaning charity 'Flossie and the Beach Cleaners'.



Anna Murphy and Miriam McDermott.

## An Analysis of Leached Chemicals from Microbeads in Water of Different Temperatures and When Exposed to UV Light.

**Scoil Mhuire Community School. Kildare. 2020-387. Senior.**

Microbeads are tiny plastic particles, less than 5mm in diameter that are mainly found in cosmetic products such as toothpaste and exfoliating face washes. Our project surrounds microbeads and their reaction within certain conditions. We chose this because it was very current in the news and on social media. We also heard about an Irish teenager, Fionn Ferreira, who discovered a way of extracting plastic from water, which intrigued us. We were affected by how our cosmetic use was having an impact on the environment. We wanted to investigate the breakdown of the microbeads and the potential chemicals that could be released under these conditions. We aimed to raise awareness of the harm caused by microbeads and make people aware of alternative environmentally friendly materials. We exposed the microbeads to three different water conditions under UV light. To date, we have exposed the microbeads and observed them under a light microscope. We have discovered that in salt water and hot water and when exposed to UV light, microbeads can break down. We hope to investigate the water for any potential chemicals that could have been released, using a mass spectrometer, which we have yet to find access to.



Adam Armstrong-Wrightson, Sophie Chapman, Amy Donohoe, Molly Morgan, Jasmine Breslin, Rebekah Donohue

## An investigation into the effect of waste on life in the river Shannon

**Lanesboro Community College. Longford. 2020-434. Junior.**

Our project investigated the impact of waste on the Shannon river in our local town, Lanesborough. We believe waste potentially from local industries, littering and boats may have affected the quality of the water in the river and may also have affected life in the river. We also believe that it is quite unsightly to see rubbish left down beside the river walk. This is one of our town's main attractions and is also an important amenity for local people's hobbies such as fishing and kayaking. We investigated the amount of waste and life that is in the river and how this has changed over the past few years. We contacted local politicians and lobbied for more bins. We made a poster to raise awareness in our school and to put up near the river to stop littering. We interviewed local people who use the Shannon as a resource for activities. By doing this we have made locals aware of the damage littering is doing to life in the Shannon and also around the Shannon. It is hoped that this activity will help to reduce littering along our lovely river!



## Petition for Petorca

**St. Mary's Secondary School Edenderry. Offaly. 2020-138. Senior.**



Alex Connell and Kate Cassidy.

During our 2nd Year Science CBAs we learned a lot about the issue of drought being exacerbated by private corporations in areas of Chile such as Petorca, where said corporations are exploiting the native land and water in order to take advantage of the climate to grow the lucrative Hass variety of avocado, thus working against several UN SDGs, and so we felt that Ireland, as a champion of human rights should do all in her power to intervene. We petitioned the government to suspend trade with Chile and we wrote to media organizations such as RTE and politicians such as Lynn Ruane, Seán Canney and Simon Coveney. We raised awareness in our school through surveys, posters and emails, and on social media platforms such as Twitter and Tiktok, where our petition reached as far as Chile! We also received a reply from Clare Brosnan, private secretary of An Tánaiste to let us know that the Irish Embassy in Santiago, Chile has been contacted regarding our project, a feat we never thought to achieve at the beginning of this process! The experience taught us the value of our right to land, but also that everyone can make a difference.





Georgina Kempin, Patrycja Kokocinska, Chelsey Earley.

### Drastic Plastic

#### Coláiste Chiaráin. Roscommon. 2020-083. Senior

Our aim was to raise awareness about plastic pollution and how it affects the environment, and in particular, our locality. We also tried to bring our fellow students' attention to the effects of plastic pollution and tried to prevent them contributing to it by educating them and using our project to encourage proper recycling in our school. That was done by running a plastic ATM at lunchtimes where students brought in used plastic bottles to trade for rewards such as snacks in return.



Tess Blunden, Aoibhínn Coleman, Isibéal Boylan.

### River Rescuers

#### Loreto Secondary School Bray. Wicklow. 2020-104. Senior.

For our project we decided to focus on river pollution on both a local and global scale. We felt that sometimes river pollution can be overlooked and hidden by ocean pollution that is frequently in the limelight. Since there are many streams and rivers in our local area we decided to take action and aim to raise awareness about its array of effects. We invited a guest speaker, a local water officer to enlighten our school on rivers and catchments. We also visited a local primary school to present our project that we created regarding the subject of rivers and river pollution. We encouraged the children to act and hopefully inspired them to further spread awareness on this issue. We also hope that our actions contribute to the achievement of less river pollution in our area.

## Super Junior



Sammy Ho, Ava Lynch, Mila Connolly, Tara Lynch, Keira Doyle.

### A Sticky Situation

#### Bennekerry NS. Carlow. 2020-292. Super Junior.

We are five classmates who share a great interest in nature and the preservation of nature. Our project is about the conservation of bees. We came up with the idea of saving bees because they are highly overlooked as an insect and need our help to survive. Our project goal is to increase the bee population by spreading awareness, planting flowers and building a miniature beehive to educate people about these tremendous creatures. The result we are hoping to see is very simple. We want to see the bee population increase and gain the respect they deserve. We designed posters to educate the pupils in our school about the importance of bees and we also built a miniature beehive, with the help of Sammy's Dad, to explain to people how a beehive actually functions. Bees are very hardworking and industrious creatures. During our Green Schools Action Day in February we showcased our project and Sammy spoke to all guests about bees and showed them our miniature beehive. This went down a treat and had everybody talking. We had planned to continue educating the school population about bees and we were planning a number of presentations for our Green Schools Noticeboard, however, sadly this was cut short when our school closed down on March 12th. We very much enjoyed working together on this project and we have been informed by our principal that there are many bees visiting our flowerbeds at school despite our absence. Job Done!





Chloe Ryan, Hannah Hennessy, Kerry Duffin and Kate Fennelly.

### Slam Dunk the Junk

#### Bennekerry NS. Carlow. 2020-293. Super Junior.

Our project was about making solutions to reduce or in fact eradicate cigarette litter. 55% of litter in Ireland is from cigarette butts. This is extraordinary! We created posters for our school and chatted to our Environmental Officer at our local council about ways in which this problem could be tackled. One of our solutions was to put up more signs and slogans to remind people not to litter. We think this litter problem will cease when it is tackled in a more serious way. Personally, we think there should be more bins provided to the public and that there should be public announcements to educate people about the importance of using these bins. We wrote emails to the minister for the environment to outline our ideas and we also showed our video to parents and pupils at our Green Schools Action day in February. People view cigarette butts as being something small and insignificant and therefore throw them on the ground. However, one butt, then another and another causes the most unsightly problem. Another one of our solutions is to make fining more serious. The punishment for littering should have a high price. We also think there should be cigarette patrol officers reminding people who are smoking to discard their butts appropriately. Littering is becoming a very common problem in Irish society and it should be treated with seriousness. We want a society whereby people would be too ashamed to litter; it becomes something that you just wouldn't do. That is our aim and it begins with educating people. Littering will not stop until people stop.... and think!



Elle Doyle, Laila Hutchinson, Lauren O'Reilly and Brooke Rea.

### Carlow's Solution for Air Pollution

#### Bennekerry NS. Carlow. 2020-294. Super Junior.

Our project is aimed at educating young people about the things we are all doing which affect the quality of the air we breathe. We want to draw people's attention to the global effect of the emissions from their cars, the use of fossil fuels (especially in a cooler country such as Ireland) where fossil fuels are so frequently used and the effect of regular travel by car, train and plane. We are a rural school on a busy road and as a result most children cannot walk or cycle as it's too dangerous. Therefore, we aim to encourage parents to carpool thus reducing their carbon footprint. We have designed signage to hang at our school gate to remind parents that carpooling is a real option and we also wrote a letter to the Parents Association telling them about our project and asking them for funding towards the cost of this signage. We also plan to educate the younger children in our school with an informative PowerPoint lesson which we ourselves have put together as part of this project. We will deliver these lessons to our second- and third-class pupils. We have great plans to lobby our local council and to write to the Minister for the Environment to let him know that young people care about environmental issues. We have been involved in helping with an action day; 'Our Global Connection Day' which ran in our school in February as part of our Green School's initiative. We showcased our work on this day and our video on air pollution was very well received by parents, pupils and teachers. We can all make a difference. We are brimming with enthusiasm and have really enjoyed our work on this project to date.



Seán Hayden and Bradley Hynes.

### Outdoor Classroom with perennial pollinator planting

#### Queen of the Universe N.S. Carlow. 2020-313. Super Junior.

Our school's surrounding environment is full of concrete, tarmac and other hard landscape components. Our vision is to make our community, our school and the surrounding environment visually stimulating and to make a softer landscape so that our children, our community and all the wildlife can benefit more from their environment. Inspired and guided by the All-Ireland Pollination Plan from The National Biodiversity Centre and SDGs, we created pollination flowerbeds incorporating an outdoor classroom. EVERY child in our school planted bulbs or plants into our new beds. Through Heritage in Schools, an author delivered two days of biodiversity-inspired storytelling and creative writing workshops outside to the whole school. This official opening provided an opportunity for us to acknowledge and thank the people who helped to make this wonderful, important project possible. Local councillors were invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony and their awareness of the All-Ireland Pollination Plan was increased with information and guides shared with them. Throughout the year we shared our actions through our school Twitter account @qofuns, through our school newsletters and via local media (Newspaper & Radio). We were also proud winners of the South East Schools Tidy Towns Award 2019 and The Carlow County Council Pride of Place Schools Award 2019.





Dylan Lynch, Seán O'Leary, Ella Dromey, Claire Dromey, Ciara Bradley, Orlagh McBride, Eve Murphy, Jerry O'Riordan, Jack Browne, Tommy Carroll, Kristian Cermak, Eamon Cronin, Muireann Kerry, Shauna Kenneally.

## Microalgae a potential environmental superhero

**Dromleigh N.S. Cork. 2020-487. Super Junior.**

Based on results from our Science blast project and the findings from our ECO UNESCO chemically-based cleaning agents project last year, we know that microalgae can remove pollutants from water by uptake into their cells. Microalgae are a group of aquatic organisms that conduct photosynthesis allowing life forms to survive and feed the food chain. Therefore, we decided to examine the potential benefits of microalgae and design experiments to determine if algae can help to clean up the environment. We decided to investigate the photosynthetic ability of microalgae in order to understand their role in using CO<sub>2</sub> and producing oxygen. We found that microalgae can use CO<sub>2</sub>, produce food, fuel, O<sub>2</sub> and reduce water pollution. We see great potential to explore the merits of microalgae as a renewable and sustainable source of green technology which can benefit our planet. We have been highlighting this potential to the local community by showcasing our results in the school. We have also written an article for the local newspaper and we have sent a letter to Minister Creed, the Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Minister Bruton, the Dept of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in order to demand that the potential of these solar cells should be realised in Ireland.



Jasmine Ellis, BrainNash, Aoibhe O'Mahony, Mark O'Sullivan, Luke McCarthy, Stephen O'Donovan, Rioghán McGettigan, Art O'Leary, Alan O'Sullivan, Kevin Nash, Daragh O'Sullivan, and Ronan Waters

## Plastic Warriors

**Kilcrohane National School. Cork. 2020-436. Super Junior.**

Our project is about reducing plastic waste going to landfill and making useful garden furniture out of non-recyclable plastic. We discovered that there was nowhere to recycle soft plastic. We aim to reduce plastic waste in our school and community going to landfill. We decided to make Eco-bricks by completely filling plastic bottles with soft plastic that currently cannot be recycled. These can then be used to make furniture and fences for our school garden. We will demonstrate our results to the local community and encourage them to join in.



Wiktorija Rujner, Jack Henschion, Bonnie, Rose Hegarty O'Brien, Amy Deasy, Katie Sweeney, Róisín Coomey, Jack Twomey, Katie Cuffe, Andrew Lovell, Chloe Hennessy, Sarah Murphy, Mathew Power, Gemma Harrington, Rebecca Nyhan, Noah Hunter, Donagh Flynn, Dara Murphy, Yasmine Asare.

## What is the best organic fertiliser to grow grass?



**Timoleague National School. Cork. 2020-344. Super Junior.**

Our 3-month project primarily looked at how well grass grows using organic fertilizers - locally sourced comfrey, seaweed, cow manure and horse manure compared to purchased organic tomato fertilizer. After collecting our organic fertilisers, we converted the raw materials into tea-based fertilisers. We set up a grass growing station in the classroom. We monitored the height, thickness, colour, weight and dry matter. It was a controlled experiment and each day we checked the soil for moisture and fed the grass at different rates. We made sure the results were fairly done with each team doing the exact same procedures with their manure. Gathering grass for dry matter caused debate and we ultimately decided upon using a particular number of blades in the final comparison. We gathered our results and presented the results digitally in graphs. We chose this project as it highlights what is going on in our locality with grass growth. We have received great interest from the media about our project and they have helped publicise our project and its results.



Darcy Savage, Lily O'Hanlon, Zara Salme, Keegan Adams, Amy Feenan, Alannah Clarke

## Francis's Followers

**St Clare's Abbey Primary School Newry. Down. 2020-457. Super Junior.**

Our project is based upon the example set by St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of those who promote care for nature and one of the saints to inspire the congregation of St Clare's sisters. We want to lead the way in taking care of our world and help raise awareness of the importance of protecting our environment both in our school and our local community. We built a greenhouse using recycled plastic bottles and use this during our school gardening club sessions. Our school gardening club is comprised of pupils and grandparents and we utilise the space on our school grounds to grow a range of plants, fruit and vegetables. We have also looked at ways of attracting insects to live in our school garden or forest. We have also studied the effect our carbon footprint has on our world and how this will affect future generations. We joined with a member of the Forestry Commission to reach out to every school in our dioceses to become more aware of their carbon footprint. We planted a tree in an old shoe as part of an initiative entitled 'Our Happy Footprint of Carbon' as part of the tree shepherd project.com. We gave one to each school to plant on their school grounds.





Bebhinn Berube, Leon Stewart, Eoin O'Connell, Saoirse Shiels, Inaki Calvo, Shayla Crotty, Alin Doljescu, Yaqub Farsi Lopez, Oskar Kable, Fay Leigh O'Keeffe, Quinn Leigh O'Keeffe, Feidhlim Lennon, Gabriel Megherea, Guilherme Santa Lucia Pascoal, Riana Stancea

## Canal Way Bee Friends

**Canal Way ETNS. Dublin. 2020-463. Super Junior.**

Our project began in 2014 when we moved into our current school building. The existing garden had become neglected over the years. Our aim was to provide our city school community with an outdoor space that would be suitable and safe for teaching and learning but could also be used to host community events. We aimed to encourage wildlife by planting an orchard, making a shallow pond, creating a woodland area, planting flowers and vegetables in raised beds. In 2018 while participating in The Young Entrepreneur Scheme the group designed, made and sold Bee Booster Boxes. The aim was to raise awareness about the declining Bee population and develop a simple solution suitable for any city location. In 2019 we sought and got the approval to put 2 beehives on the flat roof of our school. The planting in the garden has been specifically designed for our bees. We are currently in discussion with local bee-keepers. In May 2020 we aim to live-stream the activity from the hives to our school community



Ava, Emily, Eleanor, Camille, Nina

## ECO FASHION

**Castleknock Educate Together NS. Dublin. 2020-442. Super Junior.**

Our project is about ECO FASHION which is making clothes that can break down easily and we also want to encourage people to buy less clothes because the clothes they are buying are not breaking down so they end up in land fills. We came up with the idea by talking to our mentor about how the fashion industry is getting worse and we want to put a stop to it. Our goal is to help people understand that the clothes they are buying are not good for the environment and that they should buy clothes that are ECO friendly.



Sean Tobin, Tom O'Ceallaigh, Matteo Serena, Benjamin Leonard, Oscar Buckley.

## Plantilisation

**Castleknock Educate Together NS. Dublin. 2020-443. Super Junior.**

Our project is about raising awareness about the lack of plants and trees in our environment. We have come up with some ingenious ideas to enhance our communities with plants and nature. We have several ideas about how plants and nature could hugely benefit our world, in ways not many people have come to understand, so this is what our project is about. We chose this topic because we all had an interest in climate change and how we can deal with it. What we thought of was reducing greenhouse gas emissions while bringing people closer to nature. We have worked very hard on our project over the past few weeks.



Anyah Kador, Ciara Moonman, Lizzie Coughlin, Mia Dixon.

## Bio nappy cleaner

**Castleknock Educate Together NS. Dublin. 2020-444. Super Junior.**

Our project is a jelly that you can use to clean the inside of bio nappies because normally they do not compost because of the faeces in them. We hope to achieve our project goal of hopefully helping the environment.



Dean Browne, Darragh Cullen, Leon mc Grath, Senan Jenkins, Callum Curtis, Diran Adwale.

## Franner Farmers

**Francis Street School. Dublin. 2020-140. Super Junior.**

In our project we set out to tackle two problems in our school. Firstly, our lunch provider was putting too much packaging on our lunches and secondly the route to school taken by many of our students was too full of pot holes and cracks. The packaging was bad for the environment and the poor street quality was discouraging us from walking to school. We made a huge model of a whale from the lunch wrappers and sent pictures to our lunch provider. We picked a whale because of all the plastic they accidentally ingest. We also undertook a Walkability audit and sent a PowerPoint of it to Dublin City Council. The lunch provider emailed us to say they were going to use more environmentally friendly packaging e.g reusable crates. The roads and Traffic Dept of Dublin City Council said they are reviewing our Walkability audit. A spin off from our project was that we did projects on blue whales, began to separate waste and collect rain water.





Samuel Quinn O'Flaherty, Ellie Marrinan, Reiltin Salmon, Lucas McAllister

## Tackling Plastic Waste

**Grúpa Glas Super Junior. Dublin. 2020-270. Super Junior.**

Our project aimed to reduce the amount of single use crisp bags and chocolate wrappers. These are not recyclable in the normal green bin. We set up a collection point at our school so that people can bring these pieces of plastic waste in. When the box is full, we send the items to a company called Terracycle who will recycle the waste so that it does not go to landfill or become litter. The items get recycled so that crisp and chocolate makers do not have to use more fossil fuels to make wrappers for new chocolate and crisps. We also raised awareness about single use plastic and wrote to the crisp factories requesting that they change to sustainable packaging.



Olivia Hanley and Emilia Bennis.

## Anseo – The brand-new wristband and app to encourage children to walk to school and let parents know they have arrived safely.

**Scoil Mhuire, Sandymount. Dublin. 2020-470. Super Junior.**

Anseo is a new wristband and app to encourage children to walk to school and let parents know they have arrived safely. We care passionately about the environment, biodiversity and sustainability. We want to protect our planet, enjoy good health and live in a sustainable community. We wanted to increase walking to school and for our parents to know we arrived safely. We found a new way to achieve this using RFID (radio frequency identification) bracelets which generate a text message to alert the parent when the child goes into school. Our research and surveys revealed that the Government wants more children to use sustainable ways to travel to school. Our teachers, parents and pupils also want more students to walk. Our community will benefit from reduced traffic congestion as a result. We took action to develop the technology to make a prototype. We researched the health benefits of walking and its impact on our carbon footprint. Our product can benefit schools and communities. We invented and designed a new wearable product as a solution. It's environmentally friendly, fashionable, sustainable and we want to bring our innovation to life in 2020 with the help of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards.



Cate Sweeney, Niamh Burke and Laoise McKenna.

## How can buying imported fruit and vegetables affect your carbon footprint?

**Scoil Mhuire, Lakelands. Dublin. 2020-219. Super Junior.**

We worked hard to inform staff and teachers at our school how a simple thing like choosing fruit and vegetables in the supermarket can have an effect on their carbon footprint. We carried out various surveys comparing imported produce with local Irish produce. We encouraged everyone to buy Irish seasonal produce over imported. We demonstrated how this is better for the environment. We revealed through our surveys the difference between buying imported instead of local in terms of nutrition, longevity of the product's life where it has less distance to travel. This means less air-miles travelled resulting in lower carbon footprint. Staff and pupils are now more aware of the Bord Bia symbol.



Aayan Idle, Lovleen Kumar, Thomas McCarthy, Carlos Kiala, Danish Skiojis, Lionel Kiala

## Stools for Schools



**LSt. Thomas' Senior National School. Dublin. 2020-069. Super Junior.**

St. Thomas' SNS, Jobstown cares about the environment and we want to play our part in protecting the natural world around us. Our action group, called Plastic Packaging Pirates, decided we could stop the plastic waste growing in our area and destroying the environment and habitats in our school community, both in the school grounds and surrounding area. We wanted to reduce plastic waste and upcycle single use plastic into a resource that our school could use and so the idea of "Stools for Schools" began. Each class made an Eco brick from recycled plastic from our school waste and litter. With these Eco bricks we made Eco stools which are used in our classrooms and school library. The project has evolved and we now use single use plastics to make Eco Bean bags, pillows, cushions and even skipping ropes.





Cody Dyer, Leon Hannon, Kori Lennon, Callum Burke, Cillian Shannon.

## St Brendan's Recycling Station



St Brendans BNS. Dublin. 2020-465. Super Junior.

We wanted to try to reduce the amount of waste we produce as a school, while also reducing the amount of single use plastic we buy. We have reduced the number of black bins in our school from 12 to 2 and have recycling and compost bins in every classroom. We now collect batteries, plastic bottle tops, crisp packets and chocolate wrappers to be recycled. These are gathered in the school and sent off to WEE, Precious Plastics and Terracycle to be recycled. Educating young people about the effect our choices have on the wider world is critical. We are reaching over 150 families as well as others in the wider community and sharing our message. We have also set up a Black, Brown and Green bin in our school yard. We hope that this will help to get children familiar with using the correct bins when they are out and about. Our fifth class also collect all of the compost bins in the school on Tuesday and Friday, these are then put into our compost heap. The boys also choose some of the nice food waste to give to the worms in our wormery.



Cian Mangan, Dominick Keavney, Ewan Fitzgerald, Nathan Fitzgerald, Tiernan Mangan.

## Goal, Goal, SUPER GOAL!

Cloghans Hill NS. Galway. 2020-345. Super Junior.

Our project is all about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. We decided to see if people in our school community and local area knew what the global goals were. We were alarmed when we saw the survey results. The Global Goals are the strongest commitment that people on the planet can make to try and protect the environment and slow down global warming, pollution levels and climate change. The Goal of our project is education, to show people what the global goals are and how they can use them to make the world a better place. We wanted our project to be accessible to all. Two of our team members have autism and they were excellent giving us guidance on how to aid understanding for all. We made some scratch projects, a website and an app all about the global goals. We achieved a working website, an app and some pretty cool scratch animations as well as large comic style big book that all work to illustrate and educate people on the global goals. We have used social media and emails to send the links to people and we hope that through our 'share the link' requests and through word of mouth following our launch night in March that we will reach a large audience and as a result that everyone makes as big an effort as possible to bring about the targets in the global goals by 2030.



Alicia Lawless, Alison Lawlor, Carly Higgins, Mia Flaherty, Jack Dervan, Donnacha Flaherty, Rebecca Rutland.

## Buidéal Amháin

Killasolan NS. Galway. 2020-467. Super Junior.

Despite being a small rural school we have a keen interest in environmental issues and climate change. Last year we worked with Conscious Cup on a Young Scientist (Science Blast) project looking at the huge issue of one-use coffee/tea cups. We wanted to follow on our good work and we decided to look at our school's use of plastic bottles. We linked up with the 'No Home for Plastic' Voice initiative to look at our plastic usage in school and at home and completed a number of tasks/audits during the initiative. The pupils were disgusted at the amount of plastic bottles we gathered during target periods in school. So we decided to ban these bottles and we linked with Galway County Council to secure a grant to fund our B.A (Buidéal Amháin) initiative. We designed a logo and a character for our project. Each child in the school got an actual bamboo B.A. sourced from a sustainable provider and we also got funding to cover the costs of visiting a water treatment plant. One of the main issues we focused on is the issue of drinking water in schools and the 'hang-up' many people have in drinking tap-water. We contacted Water.ie to find excellent water readings for our school as well as seeing first hand the treatment water gets. It is only the beginning as the pupils have spread the message to their families, community and clubs. Refill.ie loved the idea and suggested working with us to produce a B.A. programme for other schools and possible funding of a filtration station.



## Evan Alex and Dylan's Tralee Canal Clean Up

Brothers Evan, Alex and Dylan Nealon. Kerry. 2020-011. Super Junior.

We set up our project over a year ago after seeing a swan eating Styrofoam in the Tralee canal. We have turned to the public for help as the clean-up of the canal was too big a job for three small children. We have pulled over 500 bags of rubbish from the area with the help of over 150 volunteers through numerous organised clean ups by ourselves. Volunteers came from schools, local businesses, Ballyheigue inshore rescue and other organisations like us. We have raised over €4000 to purchase a Seabin to be installed in the canal to catch rubbish we cannot reach daily. We have highlighted the problem on plastic pollution through tv radio and newspapers. We have also visited national and secondary schools with our project to show other children you do not have to be an adult to make a difference in the world. We also spoke at the Tralee town meeting to give our views and worries about the canal and other areas of the town ie the town park. Our goal is to have the barrier built and approved and to have cameras installed along the canal to stop illegal dumping. We are meeting with as many TD's and counsellors as possible to get as much help as possible.



Evan Nealon, Alex Nealon and Dylan Nealon.





Eoin Casey, Pdraig Casey, Colm Ryan, Sam O Sullivan, Micheal Casey, Oghie Burns, Laura Murphy, Isabell O'Brien, Ciara de Jong, Sean Casey, Daniel O Sullivan, Aaron Breen, Darragh Murphy, Tom Clifford, Dylan McGiff, Grace Casey, Sarah Bradshaw, Finlay Kinnaird.

## Good Reason To Eat In Season

**Sneem N.S. Kerry. 2020-115. Super Junior.**

Our idea is to encourage people to eat and shop in season. By doing this, we are helping tackle climate change. When you eat a strawberry in the winter, it has probably been flown in from Egypt which generates 1191.08kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions released in just one flight! But if you eat a strawberry in the summer when it's in season, you're automatically buying Irish. Also, your food is often sprayed with pesticides which are SUPER bad for your health. When you eat strawberries in summer it is also a lot cheaper. In fact, we found out that in summer, strawberries grown in Ireland cost only €2.00 but in winter strawberries from Morocco cost €3.00. You don't even need strawberries in Winter, in fact your body craves what's in season. We got 300 people to our pledge To Eat and Shop in Season. We even got David Clifford and Darina Allen to take the pledge. We made keyrings that show what fruit and vegetables are in season at certain times of the year. We also made wristbands that say #Ittookthepledge so when people take our pledge, they can take one. We were featured in the Kerryman, Kerry's EYE, the South Kerry advertiser and even in the Irish Examiner.



Julia Barriga, Eva Fitzgerald, Ailbhe Madden, Julie Burke, Ailbhe Madden.

## Kapow (Come and protect our world)

**Kapow Youth Group. Limerick. 2020-034. Super Junior.**

Kapow aims to help people enjoy celebrations while still protecting the world. We realised that during celebration times such as Halloween, Christmas and Easter, people often consume more and forget about the effects on the environment. So KAPOW has been giving presentations in school and holding events to encourage people to stop and enjoy celebrating without wasting. We held a costume exchange for 'hallogreen' so people could avoid buying new costumes and held a 'trick or trash' competition encouraging students to make costumes from recycled materials. We gave presentations to all the classes with tips on how to home-bake confectionary and home-make decorations from recycled materials and on how to lower their impact on the environment every day. The response was overwhelming. At Christmas we organised a Christmas Climate Change Countdown, and in the days to Christmas our class tracked their carbon footprint by monitoring their journeys, energy use, waste and meat consumption. We had been planning for Easter and to go hunting for the most eco-friendly egg. We hope that by encouraging people to consume less we can have a huge impact on Ireland's carbon footprint.



Áine O' Callaghan, Lucas Den Diken, Kate Moore, Conor Knight, Louise Hayes, Zuzia Kapela, Margaret Culhane, Luke McGrath.

## Castleconnell NS Energy Savers

**Castleconnell NS. Limerick. 2020-203. Super Junior.**

Our project topic came to 'light' when Carbon Footprint was mentioned in the 5th class classroom one day. Some of the class were curious about this and had heard it mentioned before with regards to Climate Change. Research was carried out to find out what causes your Carbon Footprint. 5th class decided that our school wastes too much energy and made the choice to do something about it. A committee was formed and since then we have been raising awareness about ways to reduce energy consumption in our school. We carried out a metre reading and displayed the results as bar charts around the school, we held no 'No Power Hours' in school where the activities we do within that hour are energy free, we have light monitors in our classrooms and Power Rangers who do lunchtime classroom spot checks to make sure all appliances have been switched off when not in use. We have an Energy Efficient Classroom of the Month and the winners are announced at our school assembly and win a class prize. We are 'Switching on to Turning off' in Castleconnell NS!



Ryan Doran, Brianna Halligan, Rory Halligan, Jamesie Maughan, Emily Griffin, Leah Conway, Kayla Conway, Catlin Kavanagh, Nathan Chambers, Rebecca McTigue, James Jordan, Eabha O'Donnell, Cameron Rowland

## Games for Good

**Foroige Hub Juniors Castlebar. Mayo. 2020-141. Super Junior.**

Games for good – Tip of the Iceberg! - We wanted to make a fun way for young people in national school to learn about the threats to the world's climate. We thought a lot about how we like to learn and how we could develop a good way to teach other children what actions they can take in their own lives to combat climate change. We discovered that we all love playing board games, so we thought it was time we came up with our own! We researched about climate change and its effects. Then we met with Laura the climate officer in Mayo and told her about our idea to design a boardgame. She gave us some tips and facts and we built these into our game design. We spent a lot of time in our groups discussing our ideas and building prototypes which we tested with other groups. We eventually decided to set our game in Antarctica so we could include cute penguins, we think that our game turned out to be really fun and we hope to produce one for each of the schools in our area, so they can learn from what we have done.



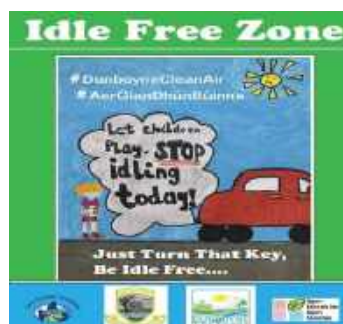


Mathew, Clíodhna, Seuníoa, Grace, Victoria, Bailey, Chloe, Josh, Gloria, Shauna, Barry, Cian, Roisin.

### St Josephs Ogham Tree Team

**St Josephs Primary School. Mayo. 2020-279. Super Junior.**

Our project was about creating a woodland sanctuary which will allow birds and pollinating insects to thrive on our school grounds. We linked locally with biodiversity plans and decided to play our part by getting parents and locals involved in planting an Ogham Woodland. This Ogham Woodland is an ancient idea rooted in Irish culture and we decided to use this concept to both make an impact on the biodiversity of our area and link it to our history and heritage. As well as that it enables us to neutralise the carbon footprint of a local water butt scheme. In this way we can use the Ogham Woodland to educate the children in our school community and plant the seeds for the next generation both from a climate and biodiversity standpoint.



STEM Team

### Dunboyne Clean Air

**Dunboyne Senior Primary School. Meath. 2020-466. Super Junior.**

In Dunboyne Senior Primary School we place a high priority on the promotion of health and well-being to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. There are often wide variations in local air quality going undetected that can have significant impacts on health and wellbeing. Our open schooling project #DunboyneCleanAir aimed to investigate the quality of the air around our school. We explored the links between unsustainable forms of transport, climate change and also how weather and air pollution are linked. This year our students participated in the GLOBE Air Quality Campaign. We measured local data, analysed scientifically accurate data and shared solutions to improve air quality in Dunboyne. We published the results of our air quality campaign internationally! We designed posters which were displayed throughout our community to encourage people to support our campaign by not idling cars and by walking and cycling. Dunboyne Tidy Towns supported the promotion and distribution of our student designed posters. We had a tremendous response and fantastic support from our entire community! We are partnering with a broad network of organisations and were delighted to be awarded a 4 star research badge and two additional STEM badges at the Globe International Virtual Science Symposium.



Aaron Bailey, Bo Fleming, Tristan Tomkins, Nathan Price, Owen O'Gorman, Katie Kelly, Ruben Kinch, Sage Cowap, Glen Stephens, Dorde Sremac, Lucy Leech, Ellie Galvin, Harry Griffiths, Maris Killi, Zach White, Robin Sunderland, Melissa Rothwell, Seán Kavanagh, Zoe Poole, Kyle Jones, Bernat Jou Puigvert, Saoirse Shanahan, Carrie Hanstock, Joshua Scully, Isobelle Hughes, Daria Pershenkova, Reggie Cecil, Rochelle Noblezala, Kate Jones, Shauna Owens

### The Cool Climate Clan

**Gorey Central School. Wexford. 2020-274. Super Junior.**

The Cool Climate Clan: Our class focused on the topic of Climate Change. Our main goal was to raise awareness within our school and community of the dangers of Climate Change. Our class started by doing the 'Greenhouse in a Bottle' experiment which was an eye opener and really encouraged us to get involved. Our main aim then was to encourage people to recycle and cut down on their use of single use plastics. We helped raise awareness by taking all of our ideas and formulating them into 'The Top Ten Tricks and Tips to cut down on single use plastics' brochure. We demonstrated and presented frightening statistics that might make people change their habits around recycling and single use plastics. We created posters and resources to help spread awareness about these issues. We even made our own children's book about recycling! We also tried to make a difference by contacting restaurants with new ideas, organising park clean ups, promoting keep cups and showing people easy projects they could do to upcycle single-use plastics. We think it is important for young people's voices to be heard, as well as providing them with the information and evidence for future generations. Our generation could help balance the Eco-System. Let's do something now!



Caitlín Walsh, Leah Tobin, Molly Morris, Carla Hipwell.

### Electric Girls

**L St Colmans N.S. Ballindaggin. Wexford. 2020-305. Super Junior.**

We are four 5th class girls who want all our school friends, families at home and our community in general to stop wasting electricity and energy. We have surveyed our school friends and our families to see what habits they have. We are teaching them about energy efficient light bulbs, how wasteful the stand-by light is and other clever energy saving tricks for at home and in school. Stickers on lights help everyone to remember to flick the switch. We have appointed light leaders to help check whether the lights are off. We are sharing our information on our blog <http://theelectricgirls.weebly.com/>. We will visit local schools to tell them about our work. Our song encourages others to change their ways. We have made a game that teaches junior infants to second class about saving electricity. We taught them the chorus of our song.



Jordan Ryan, Alex Doyle, Cathal Kennedy, Róisín O'Gorman, Cameron Mc Grath, and Thomás Foley.

### Rubbish Recyclers

**St Colman's N.S. Ballindaggin. Wexford. 2020-309. Super Junior.**

We are the rubbish recyclers! Our names are Cathal Roisin, Thomás, Cameron, Alex and Jordan. Our plan is to pick up litter and make it into useful everyday objects. We have made a computer game and we are making a comic. We also made our mascot Ronan the recycler out of recyclable materials.



## Tier 1 Funders & Sponsors



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is part-funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). ECO-UNESCO is also part-funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment through the Irish Environmental Network.



ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is part-funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland and plays key roles in environmental regulation, provision of knowledge and advocacy for the environment.



**An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige**  
Department of Children  
and Youth Affairs

ECO-UNESCO is part-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs which focuses on harmonising policy issues that affect children in areas such as early childhood care and education, youth justice, child welfare and protection, children and young people's participation, research on children and young people, youth work and cross-cutting initiatives for children.

## Tier 2 Funders & Sponsors



## ECO-Den Sponsors

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## Other Supporters



*Make Ireland Sustainable for All is an EC funded project implemented by World Vision Ireland, the Irish Environmental Network, Social Justice Ireland and ECO-UNESCO to promote action and awareness on the SDGs in Ireland.*



# Acknowledgements

ECO-UNESCO would like to thank all the participants, teachers, YEA mentors and youth leaders who took part in this year's Young Environmentalist Awards. We would also like to thank our staff, volunteers and those involved in promoting and supporting our work over the last year including:

## **ECO-UNESCO Board:**

Niall Jennings, Vivienne Kelly, Marie Collins, Chris Nolan, Danny Dockery, Orla McGreal, David Kelly.

## **ECO-UNESCO Staff:**

Elaine Nevin, Breon Timmons, Susie Spratt, Dunchadh Kinane, Kieran Allen, Doireann Dunbar, Samantha Andrades, Eimear Manning, Caitlin Wilson, Clare Sheppard, Jessica Jones, Vince Harney.

## **ECO-UNESCO Interns:**

Aubrey Walter and Rachel Haran.

## **ECO-UNESCO Volunteers:**

Accenture Team, ECO-UNESCO Youth for Sustainable Development Programme participants, and all of our volunteers who have helped throughout the year.

## **ECO-Den Expert Judging Panel:**

Dunchadh Kinane, Doireann Dunbar, Clare Sheppard and Jessica Jones.

## **Head Judge:**

Mary Cunningham (NYCI)

## **Special Guest Speaker:**

Mary Robinson (Former President of Ireland)

## **Award Ceremony Host:**

Tara Stewart (2 FM DJ and environmentalist)

## **Trophies:**

This year the Young Environmentalist Awards trophies are made of Irish bog oak and other locally sourced wood by Creative Shed in Kildare.

Trophies kindly sponsored by the DEAR Fund.



With many thanks to COILLTE for delivering Irish native trees to all the Young Environmentalist Finalists 2020.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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ECO-UNESCO's

# Young Environmentalists Awards 2021

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**#YOUNGENVIRONMENTALIST**



# About ECO-UNESCO

Founded in 1986, ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation which works to protect the environment by engaging, educating and empowering young people. ECO-UNESCO has a broad range of environmental education and youth programmes and services for young people in a range of settings including youth groups, schools, community groups and as independent ECO-UNESCO groups.

## Our aims are to:

- Raise awareness, understanding and knowledge of the natural environment among young people.
- Engage, inspire and empower young people by facilitating their personal development and wellbeing through practical environmental projects, activities and skills development.
- Promote the protection and conservation of the environment by empowering young people to lead in action oriented environmental projects and activities and by promoting positive and environmental behaviour.
- Advocate for environmental education, education for sustainable development, the natural environment and youth development.
- Promote the ideals of UNESCO and working with like-minded organisations in Europe and globally.

## ECO-UNESCO's Work

### Environmental Youth Programmes

ECO-UNESCO develops and runs programmes for young people on a broad range of environmental issues through schools, youth organisations, community groups or local authorities. The programmes include environmental events and activities, environmental workshops, ECO-UNESCO Clubs, ECO-Youth Choices and Youth for Sustainable Development. ECO-UNESCO also produces environmental education resources including publications and posters suitable for young people, youth leaders, primary and secondary school teachers, youth groups, community groups and individuals.

Find out more at [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie).

### Training Programmes

ECO-UNESCO develops and runs training programmes for young people and trainers within non-formal and formal education, providing a specialist approach to working with young people. The programmes include one-day training courses, and a range of QQI Accredited Courses including Introduction to Sustainable Development (L5), ECO-Community Development (L3) and Peer Education (L5). ECO-UNESCO also runs a Green Youth Employability programme.

Find out more at [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie).

### Awards

ECO-UNESCO recognises and rewards the work of young people in environmental protection and conservation through a range of Awards programmes including our Young Environmentalist Awards. Find out more at [www.yea.ie](http://www.yea.ie).

## Link to UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is a Key Strategic Partner of UNESCO for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

ECO-UNESCO is affiliated with the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).





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