

ECO-UNESCO NEWS

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



Ireland's greenest teens celebrated at the 20th anniversary of the Young Environmentalist Awards

Ireland's greenest teens were honoured at the national showcase and awards ceremony of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), which took place on May 23rd 2019 at the Convention Centre Dublin. At the awards ceremony, hosted by Taz and Geraldine from Sustainable Fashion Dublin, projects across a wide range of innovative environmental themes, designed and put into action by young people from across the island of Ireland, were selected as winners.

The YEA programme run by ECO-UNESCO has provided over **50,000 young people**, aged 10-18, an opportunity to take action and raise awareness in their own community on sustainability and environmental issues that matter the most to them, since it began in 1999.

Registration
is open now!
www.yea.ie

ECO-UNESCO's
**Young
Environmentalist
Awards**

Registration for YEA 2020 is open!

Are you
between
10 and 18
years old?

Do you want to help
protect the
environment?

Do you want to
carrying out an
environmental project?

If yes to all,
we want to hear
from you!

Make it count! Did you know you can count your project hours towards the Gaisce Award?

A YEA project also makes an excellent CSPE project or Transition Year initiative.

For more information and to register your project online, visit www.yea.ie.

Following a hugely successful event last year where we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Young Environmental Awards, YEA 2020 promises to be another exciting and rewarding programme. The YEA is an all-Ireland environmental awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment.

It is a fun and exciting way to empower young people to become better citizens, to build awareness of environmental issues in the community and promote local actions and lifestyle changes to improve the environment.

Channel your passion into environmental action!

How do the awards work?

1. Interested groups register online.
2. Registered groups can avail of the '6 Steps to Success' training programme.
3. Groups submit their ECO-Action projects.
4. Internal judging panels assess all registered projects and create a shortlist.
5. Shortlisted groups are invited to pitch their projects to a panel of expert regional judges at ECO-DENS.
6. Finalists showcase their project at YEA Gala Showcase and Awards Ceremony.

Who can enter?

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards programme is open to any group of young people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from 10-18 years of age.

We look forward to hearing from you! Find out more at www.yea.ie.



GET INVOLVED!



Director's Message

Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

In 2019 we have seen more and more young people raise their concerns about our environmental pressures and demanding action and change. Young people are taking to the streets voicing their concern about climate change and about environmental issues. ECO-UNESCO recognises this concern and we have been supporting you to get involved and take action; we have continued to provide our youth-centred, engaging and inspiring programmes and activities giving you an opportunity to discuss, debate and find solutions to environmental issues.

If you want to do something locally, we have a number of programmes that you can get involved in. Each year thousands of young people across Ireland take part in our Young Environmentalist Awards programme by doing a local environmental action project – this provides an excellent framework for you to channel your passion and energy into solution-focused actions. This year we celebrated our 20th anniversary of this very successful programme with our biggest Showcase to date with over 1500 young people highlighted their environmental actions in the Convention Centre Dublin.

And if you would like to meet more like-minded young people, our Youth for Sustainable Development programme is a perfect opportunity to do that. We have groups running in Dublin and a number of locations around Ireland. We also have an ECO-UNESCO Clubs programme and if you want to set up a Club please get in touch for more information.

Read on to find out some of the new upcoming services we have to offer schools, community groups, organisations and youth leaders.

I hope you enjoy reading some of the highlights of our past year and hope you can get involved with us in 2019/2020.

Until next time,

Elaine Nevin.

Youth Sustainable Development Programme Eco-actions

Workshops

Join us!

Young people enjoy meeting every Wednesday and Thursday evening from 5pm to 7pm in our Dublin HQ for weekly workshops. The sessions focus on a broad range of environmental, social justice and sustainability issues.

European Parliament

Eight participants were invited to Brussels on behalf of Lynn Boylan (MEP) for a tour of the **European Parliament**.

Europe Children's Rally

Participants delivered a speech at the **Children's Rally for Climate Change**.

Climate Change event

Participants attended **Council's Against Climate Change** event in the Mansion House where they interacted with members of the public on how they envisioned a more sustainable Dublin.

World Water Day

To celebrate the **World Water Day** several participants interviewed members of the public in St. Stephen's Green Park about their water use.

Earth Day

Participants took part in a scavenger hunt in Stephen's Green to celebrate **Earth Day**.

ECO SOC in New York City

Four participants went to New York to attend **ECO-SOC**. Four other participants made the trip to Brussels in late April to participate in **European Youth Week**.

Youth Strike for climate

Young participants took time off from class to take part in the **Youth Strike for Climate** to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change.

Sustainable Living Festival

Participants were invited to deliver speeches at the **Sustainable Living Festival** in the Botanical Gardens.

Young Environmentalist Awards

Showcased their Young Environmentalist projects at the **Young Environmentalist Awards**.

Our Ocean Wealth Summit

Three participants attended the **Our Ocean Wealth Summit** in Co. Cork where they dialogued with John Kerry and the Tánaiste, Simon Coveney - amongst others.

NYCI National Showcase

Four participants attended the **NYCI National Showcase** where they engaged with several politicians from their constituencies about the importance of youth work.

No Time to Waste Youth Summit

Throughout the year participants were active in the **No Time to Waste Youth Summit**.

QQI Level 5

Staff at ECO-UNESCO are very proud of our participants who undertook a **QQI Level 5** course in Peer Education and got brilliant results for their hard work.

YSD coming to a town near you!

The Youth for Sustainable Development programme is for young people who are interested in learning more about the environment, sustainable development issues, and how they can take practical action to protect the environment.

150+ young people aged between 15 and 18 has engaged with our **Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme**.

We have groups in: Dublin, Drogheda, Bray, Carlow, Clane, Navan and Westport

Cleaning, action and awareness projects!

Next programme start dates:

- **Bray:** Seomra Youth Club, Bray
(Mondays 4:30pm – 6:30pm) Start date: Tuesday 1st October
- **Drogheda:** Boomerang Café, Drogheda
(Tuesday 4:30 - 6:30pm) Start date: Monday 30th September
- **Navan:** TBD (Wednesday 3pm – 4:45pm)
- **Dublin:** ECO-UNESCO, 9 Burgh Quay, Dublin
(Wednesdays (for participants in 2nd+ year of YSD) 5pm – 7pm) Start date: Wednesday 2nd of October
- **Dublin:** ECO-UNESCO, 9 Burgh Quay, Dublin
(Thursdays (for new participants) 5pm – 7pm) Start date: Thursday 3rd October

Sign up for **FREE**
www.ecounesco.ie

**Let's create
a positive
change!**

Climate Action Strikes

Thousands of young people took time off of school to go on strike in protest of the lack of climate action by the Irish government. ECO-UNESCO has always supported young people who have decide to take action on climate change. We recognise that through these schools strikes, they are taking control of their future.



Bringing Education for Sustainable Development Education to Schools

"Learning2Change Our World" is an inspiring and engaging secondary school programme that works with teachers and students alike to develop knowledge of Development Education and practices in Sustainable Development.

In the 2018/2019 term we worked with **28 schools** to deliver **40 workshops** 8 student council training sessions and a 6-week TY module. In total we reached **1,032 participants**.

Thanks to the energy and passion of the participants we meet all across the country, we have seen a 40% sign-up rate of schools participating in our Learning2Change programme to the Young Environmentalist Awards, including several that went on to become winners in their respective categories.

If you'd like to bring Sustainable Development to your school email info@ecounesco.ie, or give us a call.

1,117
total
students
reached

99
total
teachers
reached

47
total of
In-School
L2C
workshops

ECO-UNESCO's Green Teen Summer Camp

ECO-UNESCO's Green Teen Summer Camp ran from June 24th - July 1st in 2019. Due to the increased popular demand of our Teen Camps this year, we ran them over two weeks in July and August, with 31 young people taking part.

The camps included a mix of interactive workshops and outdoor education. Participants learned about the important role sharks play in our ocean's ecosystems; a critical pollinators workshop which looked at the delicate roll bees play in our lives and why it's more important than ever to protect them; and also held a clothes swap along with facilitated debates on fast fashion and the devastating impact our unsustainable clothing has on the natural environment. **For more information contact Doireann at doireann.dunbar@ecounesco.ie**

**Next Green Teen
Summer Camp
June 2020!**



Promoting healthy choices



The ECO-Choices programme consists of educational workshops, an environmental action project and outdoor education fieldtrips.

Groups of young people carried out community action projects and also entered ECOUNESCO's Young Environmental Awards. The projects included tackling food waste in their school, preserving the school pond to increase biodiversity in the area, and creating a video game to raise awareness on climate change!

*"It's very good.
We look at relevant
problems in the world."*
Participant quotes

39
young people
completed the
QQI Level 3

63
total
participants
in
ECO-Choices

Clubs in action!

The **ECO-UNESCO Clubs** programme is a great way to give focus and structure to a group of young people who are interested in environmental issues. **It's free and open to any group of young people taking environmental action or considering environmental issues.** It provides a focus for activities and an identity. There is a network of hundreds of ECO-UNESCO Clubs across the island of Ireland and the young people will be a part of that all-island network through their membership!

So why not set up a club of your own!

Contact clubs@ecounesco.ie or 01 662 5491 to get started



Get in the club. It's FREE!

Preparing Dublin's youth for the Green Economy

Our Youth Employability Programme provides young people aged 17-26 the opportunity to improve their chances of gaining meaningful employment. So far in 2019 there have been 3 courses running to provide young people with accredited training and been upskilled in communication, teamwork, interviewing, presentation, and planning. An invaluable part of the Programme is the work placement in a field or organisation that they are passionate about.

ECO-Sustainability Award

There are a number of community organisations around the country working to improve their day-to-day operational performance while minimising their impact on the environment.

Do you want to make your youth or community organisation more sustainable?

Training, on-going support and a practical toolkit will be provided by ECO-UNESCO. Sustainability is not just about "being Green" it is also about social equity, inclusion and justice – in all dimensions of our lives.

Get involved! Contact us (01) 662 5491 or email clare.sheppard@ecounesco.ie

Workshops



Our workshops are available to schools and youth groups and include fun activities and games appropriately designed for each age group.

We have a range of affordable options on offer, covering the following topics: What's so hot about Climate Changes, take climate action, get drastic about plastic, bee-O-Diversity.



Key dates 2019/2020

- **September 2019:** Registration opens for Young Environmentalists Awards
- **October:** Registration for Youth for Sustainable Development programme in Dublin
- **October – November 2019:** YEA regional training
- **December 2019:** Registration for YEA closes
- **February 2020:** YEA Project submission deadline
- **March/April 2020:** YEA ECO-Den semi-finals
- **May 2020:** YEA Showcase & Awards Ceremony
- **June 2020:** Green Teens Summer Camps
- **July 2020:** Green Teens Summer Camps

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ECO-UNESCO!**
www.ecounesco.ie



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Global Action Programme
Education for Sustainable Development

Would you or your company like to support the development of young people and their actions to protect the environment? Please get in touch to find out how you can get involved or donate through our website.

